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SATURDAY NATION

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Nairobi | August 2, 2014

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No. 18016

SCANDAL | Some of the firms allocated thousands of acres are not in the database of registered companies

Orengo faces arrest in Lamu land allocations



“

Some of the people being probed include my predecessor,”

Charity Ngilu, Cabinet Secretary



KEY PLAYERS



James Orengo: He was in charge of the ministry in 2011. Cord says ministers had no power to dish out land.



Zablon Mabera: He was the Commissioner of Lands and had the power to sign titles. He has recorded a statement.

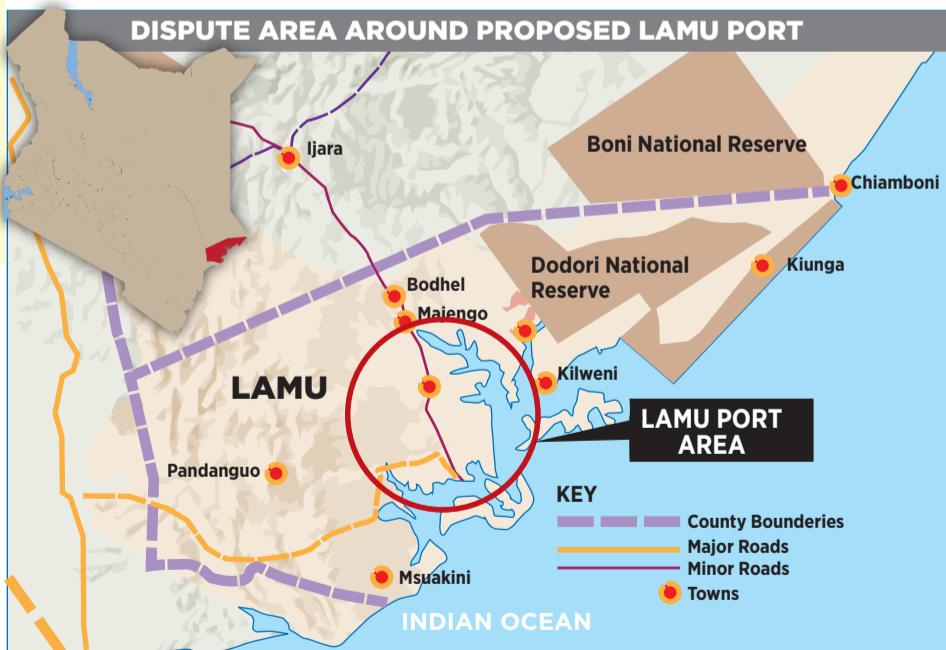


Dorothy Angote: She was the PS for Lands. She says many titles to the port land were revoked during her tenure.

INDEX

News	P. 2-11
Opinion	P. 12-14
Letters	P. 17
Weekend	P. 19,33-36
World	P. 40-42
Business	P. 43-44
Sport	P. 48-52

Two other former senior government officials to record statements but Raila dismisses move as public relations gimmick
Story on Page 4



DISPUTE AREA AROUND PROPOSED LAMU PORT

Governors snub meeting with senators

BY NJERI RUGENE
nrugene@ke.nationmedia.com

Governors yesterday boycotted a consultative forum with senators in Mombasa to protest against a new law that they say puts the legislators in control of devolution funds.

None of the 47 governors attended the three-day meeting at Serena Beach Resort that was meant to break the tension between the two groups of leaders mandated by the Constitution to protect the interests of counties.

The senators defended themselves against accusations of seeking to usurp governors' executive powers.

On Wednesday, President Uhuru Kenyatta signed a law giving senators power to chair County Development Boards, whose effect, the governors

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



Apostle J. M Ng'ang'a

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Jeremiah 42:1

ANALYSIS | David Ndii

Perish the thought, Kenya needs no benevolent dictator



The suggestion that the expanded freedom and rights in the Constitution undermine development is an argument based on a deeply flawed paradigm of benevolent dictatorship

*L*ittle else is requisite to carry a state to the highest degree of opulence from the lowest barbarism, but peace, easy taxes and a tolerable administration of justice; all the rest being brought about by the natural course of things. All governments which thwart this natural course, which force things into another channel, or which endeavour to arrest the progress of society at a particular point, are unnatural and, to support themselves, are obliged to be oppressive and tyrannical.

Like many of his writings, this observation made by Adam Smith in 1755, has stood the test of time.

But I am confronted by people protesting, sometimes quite angrily, that an excess of freedom under the current Constitution is undermining development. Some go further and assert that what Kenya needs is benevolent dictatorship.

Authoritarian instincts are not unusual. They are quite prevalent, particularly in the

corporate world. Writing in the *San Francisco Chronicle* recently, Rachel Kleinfeld, a Fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, observes: "The desire for benevolent dictatorship is not confined to developing nations. I hear it even more often from America's business community and those working in international development—often accompanied by praise for China's ability to 'get things done'."

What I find remarkable, in the Kenyan case, is that these sentiments are now expressed by erstwhile luminaries of the Second Liberation—people I was tear gassed with in the early 1990s and others I visited at the Industrial Area Remand Prison.

That someone who suffered under and fought against authoritarianism can turn around and say we need despotism, because his or her tribesman is in power, leaves us little choice but to concur with Smith's compatriot, David Hume, that men often act knowingly against their interest.

The theory of benevolent dictatorship has been given credence by the rise of the "Asian Tigers" in the latter half of the last century, and the more recent meteoric rise of China. Nearer home, President Paul Kagame and former Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi are mentioned. But it is a deeply flawed paradigm.

First, consider historical context. The so-called benevolent dictatorships are regimes that came after a severe national crisis.

South Korea followed the war that led to the partition of Korea into North and South. Singapore gave up independence to join the Malaysian federation only to be ejected a few years later. The Malaysian Parliament voted unanimously — 270 for, zero against — to expel Singapore. That is traumatic. We need not belabour the tragedies from which the Kagame and Zenawi regimes emerged.

But all these are dwarfed by China's context. Deng Xiaoping's celebrated economic reforms were preceded by



FILE | NATION

President Mwai Kibaki displays the Constitution after its promulgation at Uhuru Park, Nairobi, on August 27, 2010: Some people have suggested that the expanded freedom in the Supreme Law curtails development.

Mao's Great Leap Forward, the world's deadliest development experiment. Launched in 1958 and abandoned four years later, the agrarian and industrial modernisation is estimated to have cost China between 18 million and 40 million lives. Although the majority starved (even as China exported grain and rejected food aid), an estimated 2.5 million were beaten or tortured to death.

A society emerging from genocide or murderous regimes like Mengistu's can be expected to embrace more

moderate autocrats. Yoweri Museveni has been able to play this card in Uganda by constantly reminding the people of the chaos that they court by rejecting him. Economic reforms are likely to be much easier to implement in such settings since there are no significant vested interests. These observations suggest that the "benevolence" of dictatorship is more an artifact of history than it is political agency.

The second flaw is the issue of counterfactual. To argue convincingly that benevolent dictatorship beats democracy in development, one ought to demonstrate that the countries in question would not have done equally well or better as democracies.

Since this is not possible, the next best thing is to ask whether there are comparable countries that emerged from despotism and did just as well economically. The two most obvious ones are Germany and Japan. Both were benevolent dictatorships of sorts before the Second World War. They were devastated by the war but emerged as democracies and leapfrogged other industrialised countries.

But the Americas are the better political laboratory. Other than being at extreme ends of the continent, Argentina and Canada are geographically and historically similar. Not surprisingly, they were in 1900 the 11th and 12th wealthiest countries in the world, with income per person of \$2,750.

Today, Argentina is a middle income country with an earning

per person of \$15,000 (Sh1.3 million) and many well-known economic troubles. Canada, with a \$50,000 (Sh4.4 million) income per person, boasts one of the world's highest standards of living. Argentina has experimented with every shade of authoritarianism over the past century. Canada is as close to a model democracy as you are likely to get.

Central America is the land of tropical splendour and colourful despots (think Manuel Noriega). Little has changed since American writer O. Henry coined the epithet banana republic a century ago. Honduras, for which he coined the term, has the highest murder rate, followed closely by its neighbours El Salvador and Guatemala. Honduras and El Salvador famously went to war over a football match. Nicaragua and Panama have their colourful histories, too.

The one exception to the banana republic syndrome is Costa Rica. The country is known for winning development accolades. It was ranked first by the New Economics Foundation's Happy Planet Index in 2009 and 2012. With only a middle income economy, it has one of the best health care systems in the world, reflected in a life expectancy of 80. What sets it apart? It has been a stable democracy since 1948.

But the most compelling case for democracy in the development discourse is Africa. In 2000, *The Economist* carried a cover story titled "Africa: The Hopeless Continent". A decade later, in 2011, it splashed: "Africa Rising". What changed during the decade? Politics.

Between 1989 and 1998, 37 African countries adopted multiparty democracy. There were only three previously (Mauritius, Botswana and Gambia). The sub-continent held 68 multi-party elections

In your **SUNDAY NATION** Tomorrow



New Tenders page in the Sunday Nation
Are you in the Supplies business? Then you are in good company in the Sunday Nation. Tomorrow, we continue with our regular page that collates tenders advertised by the national and county governments across the country. If you missed the announcements in the newspapers or online, be sure to catch the highlights weekly in the Sunday Nation.



Land and power politics

The shocking revelations by the government that a handful of private companies had been irregularly allocated 500,000 acres of land in Lamu has left tongues wagging. In Kenya, it's not possible to discuss the land issue without touching on

powerful political figures who control large tracts of productive land in the country. Will Lamu present an opportunity for Kenyans to finally get a glimpse on the complex web that is land ownership and political power? Can the current crop of politicians muster the courage to get to the root causes of the explosive land question?

58,000 selected to join universities

Over 58,000 candidates who sat last year's KCSE exams have been selected for degree courses in public universities while 32,000 will get a chance to pursue diploma courses. We give you a sneak preview of the selection process being carried out by the newly-established Kenya Universities and Colleges Central Placement Service, who are for the first time managing admissions into diploma colleges.

The amazing Mark Cheseto

Athlete Mark Cheseto left Kenya on a scholarship to the US in his first-ever contact with the First World. But an accident nearly froze his dreams in the winters of Alaska. After losing his feet to snow in a frightening experience, Cheseto is up and running again — on prosthetic legs. Read about the powerfully inspiring story of the man who rose from the ashes like the proverbial phoenix.



68

The number of multiparty elections conducted in Africa between 1989 and 1998

Only in the **SUNDAY NATION**. Don't miss your copy

DEVOLUTION | County chief executives say new law diluting their powers is unconstitutional



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

say will dilute their constitutional powers. They have vowed to challenge it in court.

The County Governments Amendment Act, which was originated by the Senate, will become effective next month.

In Mombasa, although their flights and rooms had been reserved, the governors withdrew their participation after the President signed into law the contentious Bill.

The law was initiated by Nandi Senator Stephen Sang and will see MPs and Women Representatives also sit on the development boards.

Yesterday, 29 senators who travelled to Mombasa for the meeting expressed surprise that the governors were opposed to the law.

"I want Kenyans to know that when the Legal Affairs Committee that drafted the Bill invited the Council of Governor's represented by Mr (Isaac) Ruto and their lawyers, they agreed that it was legal, constitutional and appropriate.

"Their only contention was the chairmanship of the board," said Meru Senator Kiraitu Murungi, one of the three legislators who read their three-page statement.

during the decade, more than five times the number in the previous half a century of independence. Of these, 16 were adjudged to be completely free, 31 partially free and 21 not free (ours are in the last category).

Elections, however imperfect, have replaced coups and assassinations as the default method of changing governments, which have become more responsive to citizens' needs. The political change dovetailed with economic reforms and globalisation, creating business opportunity in the context of much reduced political risk.

It is not like investors did not know that Africa was rich in natural resources before, it is just that the political risk was way too high. In short, peace, easy taxes and tolerable administration of justice are all a country needs.

David Ndii is the Managing Director of Africa Economics
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Wajir Senator Abdirahman Hassan accused the governors of "throwing tantrums" by refusing to attend the meeting that was meant to "enhance collaboration and development on a range of issues so that we can realise the benefits of devolution.

"All we want through this law is to help plan development at the county level as part of our oversight role. We are saying that we want to know how this money will be used and governors appear to be running away from it. They want to use the funds at will and evade accountability," Mr Hassan said.

Senate Majority Leader Kithure Kindiki accused the governors of "inappropriate" behaviour by pulling out of the meeting at the last minute yet they were the ones who had called for it to thrash out the thorny issues that had arisen between the two groups.

"They wanted to see us so we can discuss how, through our legislative work, we can support structures of devolution and how to make it work based on our experiences of one year," Prof Kindiki said.

The senators, who were accompanied by their Speaker, Mr Ekwee Ethuro, and Deputy Speaker Kembi Gitura, said the Senate, in its oversight role, was the "appropriate body" to



LABAN WALLOGA | NATION

Senators Wamatangi Kimani (Kiambu), Chris Machage (Migori) and George Khaniri (Vihiga) talk on the sidelines of a meeting at Serena Beach Resort that was boycotted by governors yesterday.

“

We want to know how money will be used and governors appear to be running away,

Wajir Senator Hassan

chair the development boards that would, among other things, ensure that there is no duplication of projects.

The board, they added, would not take away powers vested in the governor.

"Left uncoordinated and poorly planned for, they can fall prey to misuse and duplication of initiatives leading to inefficiency and

at worst, waste," they said in the statement read by Prof Anyang Nyong'o (Kisumu), Mr Amos Wako (Busia) and Mr Murungi.

The governors were "reminded" that as chief executives in the counties, they must work with all interest groups and institutions since they do not have the monopoly on planning and policy making.

Four Kenyans land Sh8.7m in grants for business

BY NATION REPORTER

Four Kenyans have won Sh8.7 million in grants at the ongoing Mandela Washington Fellowship in the US.

Ms Hope Mwanake, Ms Florence Kamaitha, Mr Mshila Sio and Mr Eric Muthomi, were among 36 participants from sub-Saharan Africa, who received \$25,000 (Sh2.2 million) each from the United States African Development Foundation this week.

The agency supports African-led community enterprises by providing capital and technical assistance. A total of \$900,000 (Sh78 million) was awarded to business entrepreneurs.

Winners will use the grants to execute business plans, and conduct technical studies while expanding existing projects to create and sustain jobs, improve income levels and alleviate hunger in Africa.

The Kenyan winners told the Sat-

urday Nation that they would use the money to launch environmental conservation and social empowerment projects, and set up incubation centres for business ideas.

Underprivileged girls

Ms Kamaitha, who has been leading a campaign distributing sanitary towels to underprivileged girls to reduce absenteeism from school, plans to manufacture "Kenya's first eco-friendly,

affordable and quality sanitary towels" from banana fibre.

"In Kenya, we have 1.4 million tones of banana fibre every year. After harvest, it becomes waste. So I am recycling it to make something great for the girls," she told KUT Radio, which is owned by the University of Texas-Austin, the venue of the meeting.

"The sanitary towels will be 50 percent cheaper than what we have in the market," Ms Kamaitha added.

In your copy of

The EastAfrican

- ▶ **FREE AT LAST:** Tanzania will now allow East African nationals to freely move capital in and out of the country -- a move expected to increase cross-border investments and deepen economic integration.
- ▶ **SAVING LAPSET:** President Uhuru Kenyatta's announcement that he had revoked allocation of 500,000 acres of land in Lamu came as Kenya, Uganda, South Sudan and Ethiopia agreed on plan to seek \$24 billion for infrastructure project, Lapsset, during US-Africa Leaders Summit
- ▶ **AGENDA SOUTH SUDAN:** US plans mini summit on South Sudan on sidelines of leaders' meeting as creation of prime minister position to resolve conflict is mooted.

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PROBE | CID director Ndegwa Muhoro is in charge of the investigations and will be briefing the president on their progress

Orengo and former lands bosses face arrest

Cord leaders ask Uhuru to implement the Ndung'u and TJRC reports in full

BY NATION TEAM
newsdesk@ke.nationmedia.com

Former senior government officials have come under the spotlight after it emerged that 500,000 acres of prime land in Lamu were given out during their tenure.

Former Lands minister James Orengo, Ms Dorothy Angote, who served as PS and Commissioner Zablon Mabea will all be required to record statements.

President Uhuru Kenyatta has warned that culprits in the scandal will be prosecuted.

The prime property, whose titles the President ordered revoked, were issued between 2011 and 2012 under the Grand Coalition government.

Most of it is in an area where the multi-billion shilling Lamu port is to be built as part of the new transport corridor linking Kenya with her northern neighbours of Ethiopia and South Sudan.

Those who acquired the land hope to sell it back to the government at a profit.

Lands Cabinet Secretary Charity Ngilu yesterday hinted that Mr Orengo, Ms Angote and Mr Mabea are being investigated for their alleged roles in the transactions.

Ms Ngilu appeared to lay the blame on Mr Orengo when she told a media briefing that some of the transactions happened during the time of her predecessor.

President Kenyatta's move came after a meeting with Lamu leaders and drew popular support from the county. But the matter threatened to blow up

into another Jubilee/Cord quarrel with Raila Odinga saying it was "a cheap public relations gimmick."

Mr Odinga instead asked President Kenyatta to implement the Ndung'u and Truth Justice and Reconciliation Commission reports that touch on land injustices.

Speaking in Homa Bay County, the Cord leader said of President Kenyatta: "If he is serious in correcting the land injustices in the country, let him start with these two reports where many people have been adversely mentioned".

"The purported irregular land acquisition in Lamu county is just a tip of the iceberg because there are similar injustices in parts of Rift Valley, Central and Coast Province," said Mr Odinga.

Mr Odinga also said the president had no power to revoke title deeds. Such authority, he added, is instead vested on the National Land Commission.

"Unless the President wants to bring back what used to be done under the Nyayo era, he should know that he has no powers on land matters," the Cord leader said.

Speaking at the same function, the burial of a Luo elder, Homa Bay senator Otieno Kajwang challenged Mr Kenyatta to arrest his predecessor, Mwai Kibaki, if indeed land was acquired illegally during his tenure as alleged.

He said in the previous government under the old Constitution, the only person who had powers to allocate land was the President with the assistance of the commissioner

2011

The year when most of the 500,000 acres of land was dished out

of lands.

"Mr Kibaki was the only person who was authorised by law then to allocate land; if any investigation is to be carried out then he should be the first person to be investigated," he said.

Those who may want to use the Lamu land issue to settle political scores will be in for a rude shock, he said.

Mrs Kajwang' said the President should also revoke the titles of the huge chunks of land that his family owns in Taita Taveta.

"If he is indeed genuine, let him revoke titles owned by the Kenyatta family and use it for resettling squatters," he added.

Suna East MP Junet Mohammed and his Mbita counterpart Millie Odhiambo claimed the president was using Ms Ngilu to usurp the powers of the National Lands Commission.

Sources close to the investigations said the former senior officials and a land surveyor could also be required to explain how some companies described by the government as illegal were allocated land.

CID director Ndegwa Muhoro's office is handling the investigations and will be briefing President Kenyatta on the progress with the aim of preferring criminal charges against the suspects.

Sources at Mr Muhoro's office said that Mr Mabea had recorded a statement.

Speaking at a press conference last evening, Mrs Ngilu said, "Some of the people being investigated include my predecessor".

However, ODM said ministers were not signatories to title deeds. The Siaya senator will issue a statement on Monday.

On Thursday, President Kenyatta directed the revocation of the titles of 22 companies and asked Inspector-General of Police David Kimaiyo



and Mr Muhoro to start immediate investigations.

He said a few individuals had acquired the land illegally while thousands of families living in the county do not have land.

Cord leaders asked President Kenyatta to stop blaming the last government and concentrate on solving the land issue at the Coast.

They demanded that in addition to revoking the title deeds, the Jubilee administration should implement the recommendations of the Ndung'u report on land grabbing and the findings of the Truth Justice and Reconciliation Commission.

"We ask that a President who has acted "without fear" in cancelling titles must now act "without favour". The Ndung'u report and the Truth team report must be implemented in the same way, swiftly and without fear or favour," they said in a statement.

Ms Angote argued that title deeds for land in the Lapsset corridor were revoked by the previous government in 2010 but said she could not respond to the ones in question unless the LR numbers, dates of issue and signatories were released.

"Either in 2011 or 2012, a decision was taken at the highest level, chaired by then Prime Minister Raila Odinga

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over Lamu allocations



They are in Mombasa, Kilifi and Kwale.

Directors of one of the companies allocated land in Lamu, the Minister said, had used their title deed to get a loan of Sh1 billion from the National Bank of Kenya.

Last evening, the list of directors of some of the firms came out, showing that 10 of them were not in the database.

They include Witu Nyangoro Ranch (DA) Company which got 79,534 acres, Witu Conservation Self Help Group (54,201 acres), Baragoni Boni Community which got 19,760 acres, Mokowe Kibokoni Ranch (6,725 acres), Taabu Company (6,000 acres) and Pandanguo Boni (2,350 acres). Lamu Estate Ranch, Enganani and Amu ranches are not registered.

Surprisingly, two of the companies share one name — Bricks Investment Company.

Mr Jonas Geke and Timothy Njuguna Kariuki of Nairobi own the first one registered in August 2011 while Ms Alice Masaa and Ms Margaret Kavulani incorporated a second one in December 2011. Each was allocated 40,014 acres.

Ms Masaa and Ms Kavulani also own Dynamic Trading Company formed in September 2011 and which owns 22,230 acres. A firm with a similar name is owned by Vijay Kumar and Ankit Bhadrwaj of Village Market in Nairobi.

Mat International Company which owns 40,014 acres is owned by Twalib Ali Mohamed and Abdiyahid Haji Yerrow while Shanghai Africa Investment Ltd is owned by John Kiarie, Peter Muchangi Njiru, Peter Mwangi Karenju, Daniel Gacheru Mwangi, Simon Ng'ang'a Wanjohi, Burton Kibui Maina, Michael Nduhiu Kariuki and Jeremiah Mbaita Gikonyo. They own 19,760 acres.

Reporting by By Billy Muiruri, Bernard Namunane and Maurice Kaluoch

JENNIFER MUIRURI |
NATION
Lands Cabinet
Secretary
Charity Ngilu
yesterday when
she announced
investigations
into the Lamu
land problem.

to revoke the titles. The decision was reached because we knew that those titles will be a problem to the Lapsset project and were issued to the companies in anticipation of the Lamu Port. That decision was taken long way ago," she said on the phone.

"Because I have not read about the exact titles and when they were issued, I cannot comment on that. But if they are the very titles, what is new? I cannot tell if they are recycling what was done, then," she said.

Mrs Ngilu also announced that three land registries in the Coast had been shut in a bid to clean them up as the ministry did last May at Ardhi House.

“

We believe the caves were being used by the criminals. We found some paraphernalia and clothings

Source

long it takes. We have sealed all entry and exit points to the forest so that they are not able to escape or to get supplies," the source told *Nation*.

"These are radicalised locals who fought alongside the Al-Shabaab in Somalia and sneaked back into the country after the fall of Kismayu. They are the ones waging the war on innocent citizens."

The military was sent to Lamu on July 7 to assist flush out the militia after a wave of attacks, which claimed the lives of at least 70 people.

Security officers discover attackers' hideout in Lamu

BY NATION REPORTER

Security forces have discovered two caves in Boni forest believed to be used by the militia behind the wave of killings in Lamu County.

Senior security officers involved in the joint operation by the police and the Kenya Defence Forces said they discovered the caves deep inside the expansive forest on Wednesday evening.

They did not, however, find anyone inside the two caves, said a senior security official who declined to be named because of the sensitivity of the issue.

"We believe the caves were being used by the criminals. We found some paraphernalia and clothings, which we suspect belong to the criminals," said the source.

Security officers believe the militia fled after getting information that they were being pursued. "We are determined to flush them out, however,

Victims of the Mpeketoni attack recounted that they saw the assailants stock food and medical supplies, indicating they could be in the area for the long haul.

Two months ago, Sheikh Fuad Mohamed Khalaf, a leader of Al-Shabaab, warned that the group would "soon" be taking the war in Somalia to Kenya's doorstep.

Witnesses in Mpeketoni said some attackers delivered a jihadist sermon at a mosque in Pandanguo village.

The government has, however, blamed local political leaders and militias like the Mombasa Republican Council. This is despite the fact that two weeks ago, two known Al-Shabaab men were arrested by Kenyan soldiers in Lamu.

The US has suspended its Peace Corps in Kenya. The US State Department said last week that the decision to pull the 70 volunteers out was "based on the overall security picture".

Hard times ahead after EU's red flag on Kenyan produce

BY DOROTHY KWEYU

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A nxity has gripped the multi-billion Kenyan horticulture industry after the European Union expressed worry over five popular products.

The union claims mangoes, karella (bitter gourd), the popular cooking herb, basil, as well as gypsophila and eryngium flowers, have a heavy presence of organisms and pesticides.

Investigations by *Saturday Nation* reveal that the Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service has suspended export certificates for farmers in Meru and Kirinyaga pending an audit of their production systems.

The five crops are said to have heavy presence of noisome organisms such as fruit flies, leaf miner and thrips.

Sources revealed that things could get worse after some farmers were advised not to grow certain crops — outside of the five — until next month when a key European Union meeting will decide Kenya's fate. This will be heavy losses for farmers whose crops are in the field.

The ministry of agriculture is said to have held crisis meetings, including one on Monday, chaired by Cabinet Secretary Felix Koskei.

The situation could get even grimmer with officials intimating that the European Union meeting could return a damning verdict on Kenya. This means only non-edible

by September 30 we are still performing very dismally, then the EU will be forced to take action, meaning, we may lose the segment of the market we have been supplying," Dr Onsando said.

"We know exactly who is responsible for the situation Kenya finds itself in," Dr Onsando said, as he blamed the crisis on what he described as 'dodgy exporters' out to make quick money.

Quick recovery

Dr Onsando singled out Meru and Kirinyaga—major sources of podded peas and French beans respectively—for being notorious for exporting produce that contravenes EU regulations.

Meru region is already reeling under the UK ban on miraa, and can ill-afford to run afoul of the EU over the legumes and bitter guards.

Dr Onsando, however, declined to name particular offenders, citing confidentiality and legal repercussions.

Kephis has not had problems with produce from the Kinangop sub-county of Nyandarua County, a major source of horticultural produce including peas and sugar snaps, he said.

Sh93bn

Amount of money Kenya realised from the horticulture industry last year

crops such as flowers could survive, which spells doom for small-scale farmers who don't grow flowers.

Kephis managing director James Onsando on Thursday said the government had sent an action plan to the EU outlining how it intends to manage the problem that threatens the top foreign exchange earner that fetched Sh93 billion for Kenya last year alone. Ninety per cent of Kenya's horticulture revenue comes from Europe. "If

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DIGITAL MIGRATION | CCK accuses firms of pursuing personal interest

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Nation, Standard and Royal Media defend Appeal Court for having directed the CCK to grant them digital broadcast licence

BY PAUL OGBEMBA
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Three media owners have accused the government of renegeing on a promise to issue them with a digital television broadcast licence.

Nation Media Group, Standard Media Group and Royal Media Services yesterday told the Supreme Court that government officials and a taskforce on digital migration agreed that their existing multi-billion shilling infrastructure should not go to waste and recommended they be issued with a licence.

Lawyers Paul Muite, Issa Mansur, Kiragu Kimani, Ochieng Oduol and Philip Murgor, representing the companies, said it was ironical for the government to preach patriotism through support of local industries while favouring Chinese firms for the licences.

Mr Mansur argued that the Court of Appeal ordered the government to issue the organisations with the licence because the firms had a legitimate expectation based on the promise and their massive investment.

He said the companies wanted to be allowed to roll out digital signals just like the Kenya Broadcasting Corporation.

He reiterated that the firms were not opposed to digital migration but were only aggrieved that they were denied the permit yet a Chinese company was given.

"The government, from 2007, made a commitment to exempt existing media houses from procurement of digital licences and it should be held accountable to its word, to promote



From left, lawyers Philip Murgor, Paul Muite and Issa Mansur who represent Nation Media Group, Standard Media Group and Royal Media Services at the Supreme Court yesterday during the hearing of the digital migration case. They accused the government of renegeing on a promise to issue the companies with digital television licences.
ANTHONY OMUYA | NATION

public confidence," Mr Mansur said.

Mr Muite said the Court of Appeal had concluded that the government had violated the rights of the media houses.

"The order granting us a licence was a consequence of a finding that Communication Commission of Kenya (CCK) was not the right body to issue the licence."

"It was the same consequence which made the Appellate judges to cancel the licence issued to Startimes Media," he said. Denying their clients the permit was an attempt to control the media and return Kenya to the days of repression, he argued.

However, the CCK said it had

the exclusive mandate to formulate broadcast regulations and to issue licences, and not the court.

"The court does not have the tools to determine the number of signal regulators that should be in the market," said Mr Wambua Kilonzo, the regulator's lawyer.

Mr Kilonzo told the judges that the media houses were motivated by personal interests and not public interest.

"The moment you give them a licence, the question whether those digital boxes are affordable will no longer be an issue," he told the judges, in reference to the companies' arguments that the signal converters were unaffordable to many viewers.

The lawyer said no organisation can claim to have a legitimate expectation of a licence. "Issuance of a licence depends on several factors and if organisations can claim they have legitimate expectation to be issued with a licence, then every organisation will be entitled to a licence."

Mr Mwangi Njoroge, a state lawyer, accused the media houses of seeking to wrongly equate freedom of expression to freedom to broadcast.

However, lawyer Kiragu Kimani argued that the companies sought the court's intervention as a matter of right and not to protect their com-

mercial interests.

"There is a distinction between commercial interest and commercial rights. In any event, there is nothing wrong with a party approaching the court to protect its commercial rights as guaranteed by the Constitution," he said.

Mr Oduol, his counterpart, accused the government of creating illegal regulations that he said had resulted into violation of media freedom through biased issuing of digital broadcast licences.

Mr Murgor told the judges that it was wrong for the CCK and the Attorney-General to claim that the law only allowed two digital content providers.

The lawyers further defended the Appellate court for extending the deadline for digital migration to September 30.

"Even if we don't comply with the June 2015 deadline, the Supreme Court has the power to direct the government to request for an extension of the deadline for additional five years," said Mr Mansur.

The Consumers Federation of Kenya urged the court to order for a national civic education on the migration before it is implemented.

The hearing ended yesterday and the parties are awaiting a ruling.

DP demands end to Mau destruction

BY NATION CORRESPONDENT

Deputy President William Ruto has ordered an immediate end to destruction of the Mau Forest and promised alternative land to squatters.

Mr Ruto said it was unfortunate that the Mau had been politicised by some politicians who made it a campaign platform at election times.

"The Government will give alternative land to the remaining squatters in the Mau to completely resolve this issue," he said, adding: "Politicians using the Mau to advance their careers should find something else. Wananchi want to see the development of roads, agriculture, education, health and not empty politicking all year round."

Sh1.35bn

Cost of the water project that the Japanese are funding in Narok

The DP was speaking at Maasai Girls School in Narok yesterday after a ground-breaking ceremony for a Sh1.35 billion water project financed by the Japanese Development Agency.

He said the Nyayo Tea Zones Authority had been directed to plant tea in the forest once the squatters had left.

On education, Mr Ruto reminded parents that they had a responsibility to pay fees for their children but said learners from poor families would be given bursaries from the Constituency Development Fund.

The DP criticised female genital mutilation, saying girls who underwent it were unlikely to continue with their education.

The water project is expected to boost supplies to Narok town from 1,000 to 5,000 cubic metres daily. (DPPS)

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Regional Mini Draws:

1st - 15th August 2014

10 Grand Regional Draws:

27th September



TERMS & CONDITIONS APPLY

BY-ELECTION | Kamere was sole opponent in Gatundu South

Kuria may sail through mini-poll as rival quits

We have to study law for guidance on what to do next as the situation is new, says IEBC

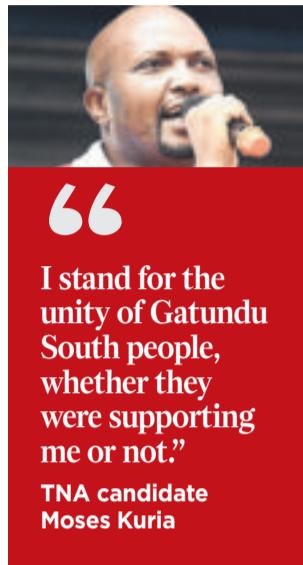
BY OLIVER MUSEMBI
newsdesk@ke.nationmedia.com

The National Alliance's candidate for Gatundu South, Mr Moses Kuria, might have an easy task in the August 7 by-election after his sole opponent stepped down.

Mr Joachim Kamere of the New Democrats Party announced his withdrawal from what could have been a tough two-horse race. Mr Kuria could be declared elected unopposed.

Mr Kamere said he made the move due to his respect for President Uhuru Kenyatta and to avoid antagonising his party — TNA.

"Gatundu South being the home of the President, I don't wish to be associated with political divisions and be the cause of unnecessary



“

I stand for the unity of Gatundu South people, whether they were supporting me or not."

TNA candidate
Moses Kuria

tensions in his backyard," said Mr Kamere in a statement. He further said he did not want to give fodder to the opposition.

Mr Kamere was received by former Gatundu South MP Ngengi Muigai, who is also a member of the Kenyatta family, and members of the constituency campaign team.

At the same time, Independ-

ent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) communications manager Tabitha Mutemi said they were yet to receive official written communication on the candidate's withdrawal from the by-election.

"This is the first time this has happened in this dispensation, so I can't tell at this stage what will happen next. We will have to study the law so that it informs us on the next course of action once we receive communication," she said.

Mr Kamere denied claims he was under pressure from some quarters to step down. Sources said he visited State House on Thursday and yesterday morning before convening a press conference in Nairobi to announce his decision. He said he had written to the IEBC, informing it of his decision.

Contacted for a comment, Mr Kuria said: "I stand for the unity of Gatundu South people, whether they were supporting me or not"

Additional reporting by John Njagi



ANTHONY OMUYA | NATION

Senior police officers during training at the traffic headquarters in Nairobi on Thursday.

Police urge caution on security reports

BY NATION REPORTER

There should be a limit to disclosure of information from the police on national security, the Nairobi county traffic boss has said.

Mr Edward Mwamburi said although all Kenyans were guaranteed the right of access to information, some sensitive issues should be handled with caution.

Journalists should be trained on how to handle security information they get from the

police or through investigations, he added.

Mr Mwamburi said a cordial relationship between the police and the media was necessary for the public good.

"However, we are not saying the media should not cover what is negative about the police," he said. "Both the media and the public should monitor what the police are doing and this will go a long way in reducing crime and corruption."

Mr Mwamburi spoke at the traffic headquarters in Nai-

robi at the close of training for senior police officers on Thursday. He praised the Nation Media Group for launching the training, designed to enable officers to understand the role of the Press and the public in policing.

He warned that the fight against corruption in the police was unlikely to be won if the public was not involved.

"Kenyans used to report cases of corrupt officers. The number of such reports is going down," he said.



Kenya National Highways Authority

Quality Highways, Better Connections

PUBLIC NOTICE

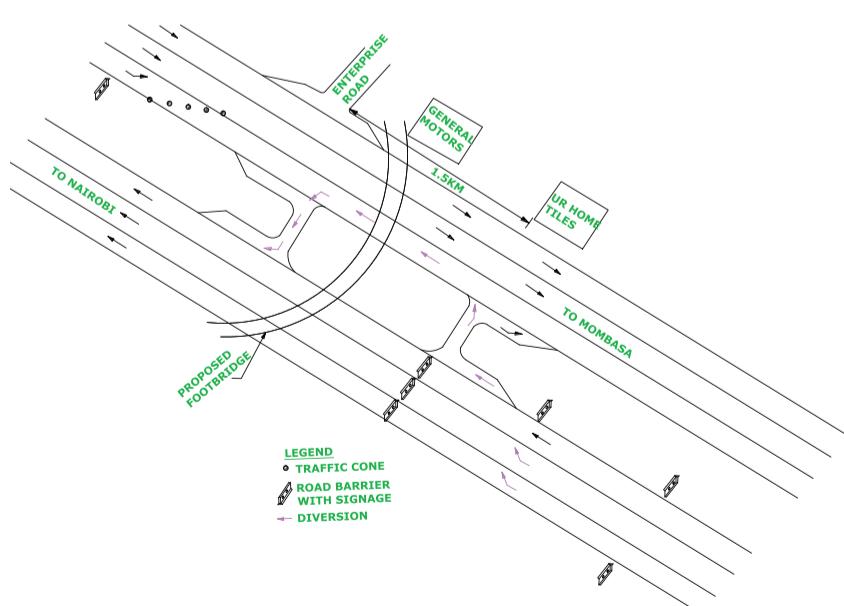
PARTIAL CLOSURE OF NAIROBI – MOMBASA ROAD AT GENERAL MOTORS

The Kenya National Highways Authority would like to notify the general public that we shall close a section of Nairobi – Mombasa road (A104) at General Motors on **SUNDAY 3RD AUGUST, 2014** as from **5.00 am to 10.00am**. The closure is due to the hoisting of the superstructure for the pedestrian footbridge crossing currently under construction.

Nairobi bound traffic will join Mombasa bound traffic at UR homes U-turn (Next to Total Petrol Station) and return to Nairobi bound at General Motors U turn. Please follow the traffic signs and instructions that will be erected along the corridor.

Any inconveniences caused are highly regrettable.

ENG. M. O. KIDENDA, MBS, HSC
DIRECTOR GENERAL



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OPEN DAY | National Assembly Speaker meets the public



Speaker of National Assembly Justin Muturi (left) interacts with the public at Parliament buildings during the institution's open day yesterday. Members of the public learned how the institution works. The event will be held country wide.

JENNIFER MUIRURI / NATION

HEALTH SCARE | Officials seek to allay fears over deadly disease

Team stuck in Kenya sparks Ebola fears

Sierra Leone footballers arrived in Nairobi after Seychelles denied them entry

BY CELLESTINE OLILO
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Officials yesterday sought to assure Kenyans of their safety after reports that footballers from Sierra Leone, which is reeling from an Ebola outbreak, were in the country.

The Sierra Leone national team is said to have arrived in Kenya after being turned away at the airport in Seychelles.

The 25 West African players and team officials were scheduled to play Seychelles in an Africa Cup of Nations qualifier today but were reportedly barred entry on health fears.

The team then reportedly

flew to Nairobi aboard a Kenya Airways flight and checked in at a hotel in Westlands on Wednesday before moving to another in Thika Road to await their connecting flight home on Sunday.

Jomo Kenyatta International Airport manager Edward Kobuthi yesterday confirmed the team's arrival but said he was not aware it had been denied entry in Seychelles.

"There is no cause for alarm. There are very many West Africans in the country currently and they have all undergone thorough medical check-ups. As far as I know, the team is only connecting from here," he said.

Efforts to reach the Sierra



“
Staff are careful when handling visitors from West Africa, so there is no crisis”

Nicholas Muraguri

Leoneans failed as the *Nation* was told they had checked out of the Westlands hotel. At the Thika Road hotel, management denied having any West African guests.

Medical Services Director Nicholas Muraguri assured Kenyans that they were under no threat from the contagion that has killed more than 700 people in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

"There is no case for alarm as Ebola is not contagious if not symptomatic. Usually, symptomatic people are normally very sick clinically," he assured.

Health workers all over the country are alert and prepared to deal with any such outbreak.

Kambi, PS warned for ignoring court order

BY NATION CORRESPONDENT



Labour Cabinet Secretary Kazungu Kambi (right) has been given 14 days to release Sh6 million awarded to a former company director, who sued his former employer for a breach of contract, or risk being in contempt of court.

Justice Monica Mbaru yesterday ordered that a notice be issued against Mr Kambi and the principal secretary to show cause why the contempt proceedings should not commence against them".

The two officials have been sucked into a protracted Sh157 million claim the former director of Zain Telecommunications, Mr Todd Michael Dick, lodged against the company for wrongful dismissal.

They are accused of withholding part of the award the court gave Mr Dick on July 27 2011 after he won the case.

"There is a shortfall of US\$65,603.67 which is still

due to the plaintiff. There is no reasonable cause for the Cabinet Secretary and the Principal Secretary to refuse to release the outstanding sum owed," affidavits presented in the case read.

The failure to release the amount by the two "is an effort to frustrate the plaintiff who has been following up with the matter for over two years and their actions are in total disregard of the court's orders," Mr Dicks lawyers said.

The parties were ordered to appear in court on August 14 "to follow on compliance."

Polls team says too broke to advertise voter listing

BY NATION CORRESPONDENT

The electoral commission has said it has no money to advertise ongoing voter registration in the country.

Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission Central Nyanza regional coordinator Rasi Masudi said as a result, most people were not aware of the registration.

"The Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission is not able to advertise the registration drive because it is broke," Mr Masudi said.

Advertising budget

"We are conducting registration in 19 constituencies out of 21," he said.

He said registration has been suspended in Nyando and Karachuonyo, Kibiriri Ward due to pending by-elections.

Mr Masudi said advertising the voter registration was a constitutional requirement meant to avoid Kenyans ac-

cusing the commission of not giving them the opportunity to take part. He said constituency coordinators will involve MPs and Members of the County Assemblies to mobilise people to register.

"Some leaders are telling the public that we are secretly registering people when they should, instead, be mobilising people to register," said Mr Masudi.

19

Number of constituencies in Central Nyanza where registration is going on

He warned people against a last-minute rush to register, saying they risked being left out like in the last General Election even though the period was extended.

Local leaders recently complained about the way the registration was being conducted.

BRIEFLY

KISUMU

Six Sim card vendors fined Sh30,000 each

Six traders were yesterday fined Sh30,000 each for selling Sim cards without verifying buyers' identification details. Grace Kwamboka, George Deng, Emma Adhiambo, Lillian Ahono, Fridah Aluoch and Irene Awuor were arrested on Thursday as they sold the Sim cards. Kisumu Principal Magistrate, Thomas Obutu, gave the six the option of fine or two months in prison each after they pleaded guilty.

NYERI

Court orders woman to breastfeed son in cells

A court has ordered a woman who allegedly dumped her one-month-old baby at the Nyeri G4S offices to breastfeed the boy in police cells. Ms Priscilla Wangui pleaded guilty to child neglect and was remanded in custody until Monday. Ms Wangui turned herself on Thursday moments after she left the child at the G4S offices in a carton addressed to one of the workers.

NYERI

Two admit ferrying uninspected meat

Two men were yesterday charged with possessing uninspected meat. Mr Boniface Nderitu and Mr Barnabas Nganga are said to have been found transporting 50 kilogrammes of the commodity in Nyeri town on July 31. Both pleaded guilty before Nyeri resident magistrate John Aringo. The magistrate ordered the two be remanded at a police station in the area until August 4.



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI
SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING

NOTICE OF 2013/2014 SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATIONS

This is to notify all students in the School of Engineering that the 2013/2014 Supplementary Examinations will be held from 4th August to 16th August, 2014.

All students affected should check in the students' portal for the examination timetable or get in touch with their respective Chairmen of Departments for the same.

Note that students will be expected to make their own private arrangements with Students Welfare Authority (S.W.A.) for accommodation.

ACADEMIC REGISTRAR

ARTS CONTROVERSY | Golden opportunity to mint dollars stolen from sculptors

How Kenyan artists were shortchanged at US festival

Ministry officials withheld crucial information from 80 participants, which proved costly

BY HARRY MISIKO

in Washington DC
hmisiko@ke.nationmedia.com

It kicked off with a theatre of the absurd, crystallised into a scandal of the white elephant, and now the *Saturday Nation* can reveal how the government shortchanged artists at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival in Washington DC last month.

The scheme saw the Culture and Arts ministry minting dollars off bent backs of poor artists who spent two weeks at the National Mall, showcasing and selling Kenya to the world.

Ministry officials and festival organisers hatched and executed the plan months to the annual event, produced by the Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage. It all started with the organisers withholding crucial information released by the Smithsonian from the over 80 participants and later on, snatching a golden business opportunity from the artists.

Animal sculptures

In February, the Smithsonian sent a delegation to Kenya to buy artistic merchandise that would be sold at its shop during the festival that ran from June 25 to July 6. The world's biggest cultural institution buys and sells artworks during the fete to help cover costs of its marketplace infrastructure and pay staff.

The delegation's plan, according to 2014 Smithsonian Folklife Festival Marketplace consultant Halle Butvin, was to buy animal sculptures, jewellery, wood and stone carvings, and houseware, including doorstops, from the participants.

"That is one of the changes (buying goods from parti-

pants) I introduced when I took office," Mr Butvin told the *Saturday Nation*.

However, the ministry and organisers of the event delayed coming up with a list of participants, and the US team ended up buying goods from traders in Nairobi, to the chagrin of the group that travelled to DC to represent Kenya.

Participants from China — the other country featured at this year's festival — landed the deal, according to Mr Butvin, who, together with festival curator Preston Scott, led the US delegation.

The team had also come to receive and transport artefacts that the participants wished to sell at its marketplace at the mall. That chance was also lost because the ministry and the organisers chose not to pass the information on to the artists and artistes.

The over 40 musicians, who, on June 28, turned Ngoma Stage into a theatre of the absurd over unpaid allowances, were informed that they could sell their CDs in the US three days to the event — months after the Smithsonian team had flown out of Nairobi. The ministry allowed them to carry only 20 CDs each to sell at the fete that attracted more than 1.5 million visitors.

"The participants' list should have been finalised while I was there. I could have met them, then we could have air-shipped everything," Mr Butvin said. "We don't allow hand-carrying (of artefacts) because it is very hard to go through the customs authorities. Most people don't know how to do that."

Months after the US team left, the organisers and some ministry officials grabbed the artists' chance, bought a container full of artefacts and shipped it to DC for sale in the Smithsonian shop.

The merchandise, which arrived in DC on June 25, was presented to the Smithsonian and sold in the name of the Government of Kenya, although there were claims that some organisers and ministry officials had a stake



FILE | NATION
Gargar, a group comprising Somalis, performs during the Smithsonian Folklife Festival held in Washington DC last month.

in it. According to Mr Butvin, the goods were delivered with receipts purporting that the cargo was sourced from the participants, a claim the artists denied.

"It's a lie. They (organisers) are stating that the goods were bought from our cooperatives but some participants, including me, don't belong to any cooperative. I coordinated bead makers in Kajiado and I didn't see anybody seeking to buy beads from us," said Ms Suzan Nketoria, head of a bead and jewellery-making NGO in Maasailand.

However, Kenya Mambo Poa project manager Elizabeth Ouma maintained the goods were bought from "groups and cooperatives directly associated with the artists".

While admitting that "it may not sound politically correct to you", Ms Ouma told the *Saturday Nation* that the government chose not to reveal the business information to artists "for their own

protection. How many times have we seen Kenyans getting stranded with tonnes of goods abroad, where they took them in the hope of selling and in the end it becomes a 'serikali isaidie' issue?" she said.

"The purpose of the festival is really to showcase the indigenous Kenyan culture and its meaning. When the commercial aspect comes into it, it dilutes and the whole message is lost."

Before the show started, Kenyan participants were already two-time losers but a rude shock awaited them during the festival. The handful of artworks the government helped them airlift from Nairobi to DC were not allowed in the Smithsonian Marketplace until one day to the end of the event.

World-renowned stone carver Elkana Ong'esa, for instance, had 16 cartons of soapstone carvings that he hoped to exchange for greenbacks. He was ordered to keep them hidden under tables in his Stone Art tent until July 5.

The most Ong'esa, 70, and a team of seven stone artists he travelled with to DC were allowed to do for the most part of the 10-day event was to showcase their products to visitors.

They were also free to demonstrate to curious art students how the carvings are made using the tools the stone artists were to use to erect a 13-tonne elephant sculpture that was to act as Kenya's centrepiece at the event.

The monolithic granite carving never made it to the US after national government officials out to milk kickbacks screwed up its transport tender.

Millions of taxpayers' money was lost and some of

it hitherto stuck in the sculpture's belly at the National Museum of Kenya.

Although the US National Park Service laws prohibit hawking and selling of goods outside the marketplace, the restrictions imposed on the artists in some way were to ensure the cargo brought by the government sold out as fast as possible.

The men and women worked hard under the sweltering summer heat, explaining and showcasing their wares to visitors but when guests expressed interest in buying — and many did — people placed at the back of the tents by the Smithsonian and Kenyan team directed and even walked the customers to the marketplace.

Investigations by the *Saturday Nation* revealed that the ministry used some of its staff and Smithsonian volunteers, mainly Kenyans living and working in the US, to watch over their fellow citizens and ensure they did not sell anything.

While some volunteers said they did not like the exploitation the artists were undergoing, they added they had to follow instructions.

Many participants were left heartbroken and disappointed.

"I told my children I would bring them school fees, dresses, food, among other things, but I don't think I will make it because our goods are for display, not for sale," said Mr Wilfred Kibegwa, a 67-year-old stone carver from Kisii and a father of 10.

The *Saturday Nation* spotted some participants selling their wares in underhand transactions as Park Police and volunteer 'watchdogs' patrolled the alleys of their tents.

BRIEFLY

NAKURU

Man who planned to eat dog meat fined

A man who admitted slaughtering a dog for food has been fined Sh20,000. Mr Antony Nuthu Karanja appeared before a magistrate in Naivasha where he was charged with planning to eat un-inspected meat on July 31 at Maili Mbili in Naivasha. He pleaded guilty saying he was hungry and had a strong desire for meat. He will go to jail for three months if he fails to raise the fine, the magistrate ordered.

NAKURU

30 years for polygamist who raped disabled girl

A court has jailed a man for 30 years for defiling a 17-year-old disabled girl at Ndumu in Bahati, Nakuru. John Karem, who is married to two wives and has seven children, admitted that he committed the offence when he visited the girl's home and found her alone. A magistrate said he deserved maximum punishment for taking advantage of the girl's condition to satisfy his lust.

KAKAMEGA

Speaker and Khalwale differ over foreign trips

Speaker of the county assembly of Kakamega yesterday denied an assertion by Senator Boni Khalwale that development funds have been wasted on foreign trips by members of the county assembly. Speaker Morris Buluma said the money earmarked for development has not been touched as claimed. "The senator should verify facts before issuing statements that could tarnish our reputation," Mr Buluma said.

BARINGO

Medics storm Cheboi's office over contracts



More than 70 health workers in Kabarnet, Baringo County, yesterday stormed Governor Benjamin Cheboi's office demanding to know their fate after the expiry of their contracts. The medics were hired three years ago under the Economic Stimulus Programme. Their contracts ran out in May and June. They have not received their salaries since then. But Health Services Chief Officer Dr Gideon Toromo assured them that the matter was being sorted.



QTV MWISHO JUMA

Kiswahili kimerudi Kila Jumamosi na Jumapili saa mbili jioni



INFRASTRUCTURE | Was Kenya shortchanged in biggest single transport investment?

Poor Thika superhighway design a threat to lives and massive drain on the economy

After gobbling Sh30bn, another Sh1.1bn will go to maintenance costs for the next year or so

BY MAINA MUCHARA

Lots of newspaper space has recently been expended on the new Thika Road and how drivers who use it have been behaving badly.

However, a few facts about this road have been overlooked yet they can assist us make the best use of this one of the biggest single investment in transport.

The latest news we have is that after gobbling over Sh30 billion in construction costs, the highway is taking another Sh1.1 billion supposedly in maintenance for the next one year or so.

A proposal to set up a toll station to raise funds for maintenance has even been made as if users of the road do not pay fuel levy.

The problem with this road is that it was poorly designed and this is having a big impact on maintenance costs.

And for a 50-km stretch of road, the Sh33 billion construction cost was robbery. But then that has been the trend in the construction of roads in Kenya.

Institutions such as the Architectural Association of Kenya and Institute of Quantity Surveyors of Kenya that would ideally be in the forefront in ensuring value for money for public projects have abdicated their responsibilities and only focus on the interests of their members.

Poor design

The main issue of this road is the design. As a frequent road user, I can declare that the Thika "Superhighway", is an unmitigated disaster.

First, a fundamental component of road construction — safety — was thrown out of the design. It is inconceivable that at this time and age any engineer can design an eight-lane road without safe passageways for pedestrians.

It is now general knowledge in the transport world that speed itself does not cause accidents, it is the stopping that does. That is why in some countries, there are roads with minimum, not maximum, speeds.

It follows therefore that should one suddenly stop to turn off the highway or join the highway from a stationary position, then one is likely to be hit by another motorist.



FILE | NATION

Part of Thika Highway. Poor design has been blamed for the numerous accidents on the road.

Consequently, all highways are connected with decelerating and accelerating lanes long enough to provide the necessary safety net. Not the Thika "Superhighway". It is a nightmare exiting or joining the road. At all the busy junctions such as Garden Estate, Roysambu, Githurai, Ruiru and Pangani, the evidence can be seen on the damaged barriers.

The other expected truism is that you do not create a bottleneck on a highway. But on Thika road, our engineers chose to do exactly that by coming up with four lanes from Roysambu interchange up to Breweries, squeezing them to three lanes up to GSU, then opening them up again to four all the way to town.

At the Breweries turnoff from Thika towards Garden Estate, no vehicle bigger than a saloon can make the right turn without cutting into the lane of the other vehicle. It is clear the road at this section was not completed as the reserve seems to have been grabbed.

The roundabout on the Garden Estate side is so poorly designed that again large vehicles cannot negotiate it without cutting into the other lanes.

And it is not that the engineers needed to go far to understand good road design. All they needed was to look at Waiyaki Way from Westlands all the way to Limuru to see how safety is incorporated in design even when faced with limited road reserve.

It is very clear that the road design did not incorporate pedestrian safety at all.

The latest speed bumps near the Shell Petrol Station in Ngara at a sharp bend are an indication of a totally confused design and

afterthought. What can be guaranteed is that pedestrians will now die in large numbers at this spot while accidents involving vehicles hitting the ones in front of them will increase.

A freely available traffic engineering manual from Cornwall County Council states: "Subways or over-bridges for pedestrians...are extremely expensive and require land to be available...new footbridges or subways may be considered as part of the construction of new roads, but will rarely be appropriate solutions..."

Thika Road was designed without pedestrian crossings then an added cost brought in to construct them. This is puzzling, especially given the fact that where the main road was being raised, crossings could have come in as underpasses or subways at no extra cost and minimal maintenance. Whereas this could seem like an accidental omission, a closer look will reveal a systematic scheme to fleece the public.

No-man's land

First, three footbridges — Pangani, Ruiru and Thika — empty pedestrians into no-man's land, requiring them to cross the feeder road and the Pangani one even on the highway in order to safely reach the pedestrian walkway.

Other footbridges are completely unnecessary. The one at Pangani near the river is barely 100 metres from the one I have described above and 200

metres from the Muthaiga interchange bridge. The other footbridge at the National Youth Service is barely 300 metres from the Survey of Kenya underpass crossing.

The same can be said about the footbridge at Roysambu next to the Roysambu interchange underpass.

This problem also affects Mombasa Road following its expansion. According to the Kenya National Highways Authority (KeNHA), it will cost Sh363.1 million to put up two footbridges on Mombasa Road at Bellevue and General Motors. That is an average of Sh180 million each to cross the six lanes. They will then construct another 10 footbridges on Thika Road.

We can safely calculate the footbridges crossing the eight lanes and two-lane feeder roads on both sides to cost about Sh360 million. Ten footbridges will therefore cost Sh3.6 billion.

Are these bridges justified? All one has to do is look at where the bumps have been placed. At De La Rue, there is the GSU/Allsops bridge 300 metres away and KCA/Survey of Kenya underpass. There is no need for a footbridge here.

At Breweries, the Garden Estate bridge is 300 metres away and Safari Park footbridge another 500 metres on the other side. The bus stop is outside Naivas and a walkway has been paved from the bridge to the bus stop. The bumps should never have been erected and no bridge is necessary either.

At the new bumps in Ngara, pedestrians have Limuru road and Ojijo Road underpasses for crossing. They are both 500 metres apart in either direc-

on guard rails and lights, every car that smashes into these is insured. It is the responsibility of the highway authority to follow up these cars and have their insurance companies pay for the damage.

Road markings are an area that puts total shame on Kenyan society and a sad footnote on the level of incompetence our government officers have sunk.

Every driver knows how important road markings are. However, on Thika Road, the markings are laughable.

Starting at the Museum turnoff, one is confronted with direct arrows guiding you to drive straight onto Waiyaki Way, only it is a left turn. In fact, there are no double size dash markings that indicate to a driver that one is getting off or on to the main road.

Embankment

What happens? Every other night a lorry heading to Nakuru ends up moored on the embankment separating Waiyaki Way from the turnoff.

The quality of the paint is poor, with some areas having already faded while numerous lanes are not properly closed or started, leaving drivers to guess who is on the right or wrong. Further, the only area that the cat eyes are working is near the Pangani tunnel.

Water and tarmac are sworn enemies. Apart from destroying the road, users are in serious danger on flooded areas. For a superhighway, one would expect the designers and builders would be meticulous and almost obsessed in getting it right. Such a dream is shattered as soon as one gets to the Muthaiga Utalii section. After the road was completed, the section flooded.

We can still salvage some pride by redesigning some sections, working on the drainage, reducing the cost of maintenance, stopping the unnecessary footbridges and use international standards of distances to erect necessary ones.

Further, from now, ensure pedestrian crossings are part and parcel of any new road construction. Use the money to be saved to build other roads. No more preventable deaths and maiming of motorists and pedestrians should be allowed on this road.

Prof Maina Muchara is the director of the Kenya Institute of Governance.

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50km

The length of the Thika Superhighway

SATURDAY NATION

Decrees will not solve Coast land problems

President Uhuru Kenyatta's directive to revoke the allocation of some 500,000 acres of land in Lamu County has stirred a heated debate, with questions being raised as to whether he acted within the law.

Experts have challenged the decision on the grounds that the legal provisions preclude the President from dishing out or revoking land titles. Neither can Parliament enact any law that allows dispossession of citizens of land or any other property.

The Constitution bestows the powers of managing public land, including survey and issuing of titles, to the National Lands Commission, which, unfortunately, has been embroiled in a bitter territorial war with Lands Cabinet Secretary Charity Ngilu. Clearly, no one has business making resolutions on land matters without following a constitutional process that includes seeking court approval to seize any property.

At another level, the presidential order raises serious doubts as to whether the revocation of the titles will resolve the vexed land question in Lamu and in turn, help to end the conflicts and violence that have afflicted the region for the past two months.

Arguably, it has been noted that the mayhem in Lamu and other parts of the Coast is linked to the land question. Generally, the locals are piqued because most of their land has been taken up by upcountry people, leaving many dispossessed and helpless.

But resolving this intractable problem requires a strategic approach. Reports by the Truth, Justice and Reconciliation as well as the Commission of Inquiry into the Illegal/Irregular of Public Land (Ndungu Commission) provide evidence and recommendations on how to deal with them. Yet none has been implemented.

The point is that land problems at the Coast and in other parts of the country cannot be resolved through decrees, which are not only unconstitutional, but also unfeasible and unsustainable.

Stars can do us proud!

The national football team, Harambee Stars, returns to action in Nairobi tomorrow against Lesotho in a crucial qualifying match for next year's Africa Cup of Nations.

Kenya will go into the match trailing their southern Africa opponents by a solitary goal and must win the encounter by at least two clear goals to book a ticket to the group stage of the qualifiers and stay on course for a first appearance at the continental show-piece in 10 years.

Apart from the Stars' 1-0 defeat away in Maseru two weeks ago, the team has been facing a myriad of problems, ranging from a lengthy ban imposed on coach Adel Amrouche by CAF to the availability of some key players for the fixture.

However, many a times in the past, the Stars have risen over greater adversity, and tomorrow should provide yet another opportunity for them to prove their worth. We hope they will draw inspiration from the athletes, who have been harvesting medals all week in the ongoing Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, Scotland, and demolish Lesotho. Go, Harambee Stars, Go!

A PUBLICATION OF NATION MEDIA GROUP

LINUS GITABI: Chief Executive Officer
TOM MSHINDI: Ag. Group Editorial Director
DENIS GALAVA: Managing Editor

Published at Nation Centre, Kimathi Street and printed at Mombasa Road, Nairobi by Nation Media Group Limited POB 49010, Nairobi 00100

Tel: 3288000, 0719038000. Fax 221396
editor@ke.nationmedia.com

Registered at the GPO as a newspaper



POLITICS | Magesha Ngwiri

Something does not quite add up in Cord's quest for a referendum



If Jubilee allow themselves to get sucked into the heightened campaigns, they risk being distracted from their national duties

Before July 7, the buzz phrase in our political discourse was "national dialogue". Everyone took sides on the issue, with those supporting it, saying it was the best idea since Noah's time, while those opposed poured vitriol on it without saying exactly why.

Soon afterwards, Kenyans became enamoured with the buzz-word, "referendum", while their counterparts believed it was a gigantic plot by the opposition to take over "their" government. In either case, they most likely had no idea what they were arguing about, though they would have gladly taken up cudgels against one another to make their point.

One thing is common, though, with those concepts: They were both conceived and popularised by the Cord Alliance. And, in my view, they are both cleverly-designed distractions, which have made our politics at once lively and befuddling.

Up to this day, I have not understood why Cord demanded a national dialogue in whatever format. Nevertheless, most of the issues the party articulated made plenty of sense. Today, I do not understand why Cord

wants a referendum, but I'll hazard a few guesses.

Our country's economy is unhealthy, and our Western "development partners" seem to be intent on sending it to the ICU with their travel advisories. Our national security apparatus is in a shambles and ostensibly unable to cope with sporadic, deadly terrorist attacks and ethnic or inter-clan clashes.

Secondly, 50 years after Independence, a huge majority of Kenyans are still living in absolute poverty, which has been defined by the United Nations as "severe deprivation of basic human needs, including food, safe drinking water, sanitation facilities, health, shelter, and education".

“

What baffles me, and maybe thousands of others uninitiated in the intricacies of Kenyan politics, is the end-game of this referendum thing"

These are some of the fundamental issues raised by Cord on why they want a referendum. Others, like the disbandment of the IEBC, or the anchoring into the Constitution a clause that 40 per cent of all revenue be allocated to counties, or even ethnicity in the hiring for public jobs, are, in my thinking, too frivolous for a referendum.

To start with, no electoral commission anywhere on this continent is ever fair to the loser. Always, there is the cry of electoral fraud, however scanty the evidence. But that is politics made in Africa.

What baffles me, and maybe thousands of others uninitiated in the intricacies of Kenyan politics, is the end-game of this referendum thing. Is it supposed to be a vote of no-confidence in the Jubilee Government with the ultimate aim of dislodging it before its term is over, or is it supposed to be a half-way measure so that Cord can gain momentum that will catapult it to State House, come 2017?

If it is the latter, then it is completely legitimate, though rather crude. But in that case, why not postpone the referendum until 2017 when the proper elections are scheduled? That would be the best moment to ask voters whether they want another five years of Jubilee leadership.

Secondly, perhaps like many other Kenyans, I would like to know the format in which the refer-

endum questions will be framed. Will it be a yes/no format in which Kenyans will be asked whether they agree or disagree with the way Jubilee is handling security issues, for instance? If the answer is overwhelmingly no, then what?

Perhaps it's time the public were told by Cord what exactly to expect from the referendum. After all, collecting one million, or even five million, signatures will be the easiest hurdle for Cord to surmount. P

erhaps they should be allowed to jump over all the others and get their referendum. Then what next? Is a referendum going to provide solutions to any of these problems?

I have already hinted at my take on this whole issue of dialogue and referendum. It is a cleverly orchestrated distraction from the business of running the country and the Jubilee leadership is being sucked in by this naked ruse. When their attention is elsewhere, there is no way they can perform with full concentration, which then makes it a self-fulfilling prophecy.

But there is another important question that must be addressed: There are three years left between now and the next election. Cord leaders seem to have started campaigning in earnest. Is Kenya really going to survive a three-year campaign fever intact?

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THINK AGAIN | Maina Kiai

Why no heads have rolled despite the current appalling state of security



State officials are more intent on lining up their pockets through corruption than serving Kenyans

Why has security in Kenya deteriorated so fast and so much in the last year? Indeed, how could a President as laid back and aloof as Mwai Kibaki have had a better handle on security than the self-proclaimed "digital duo" of Uhuru Kenyatta and William Ruto?

We can only guess why insecurity has risen so much that foreign volunteers are being pulled out; Embassies are down-scaling and moving essential services from Kenya; and tourism is in the ICU. Even well-secured and previously safe areas like Karen, Nairobi, have had their deadly crime sprees, while high-density areas continue to be flooded with violence. And yet heads have not rolled.

Here are three possible reasons for the downturn in security.

First is the ICC. The security apparatus is largely intact from the time of the PEV. The top echelons know what happened and who did what, when. We know the NSIS provided significant information to the Waki Commission, largely incriminating William Ruto, then in ODM. And we also know that the security facilitated the Mungiki killings and atrocities in Naivasha and Nakuru. What more do they and others know? Could it be that "radical surgery" of the security organs may lead to information falling into ICC hands?

Of course this could be remedied by the charges against the "digital duo" being dropped so they can deal with insecurity. But that would send a horrible message that Kenya is about two men alone, with the rest of us as bystanders. And it would reward atrocities in the most



The Mpeketoni attacks led to protests over insecurity in Lamu County.

obvious ways.

Second, this regime represents the return of the ultra-corrupt Moi regime, where everything was fair game for eating. The rise of corruption — both hidden and open — in the last year has been astronomical! From the laptops mess to Anglo Leasing to the SGR tenders, this has been a feast for the few at the table. Business people trying to make an honest living by providing goods and services to government agencies have horror stories of demands for kickbacks amounting to half the contract!

This open eating could be partly due to a need to recoup campaign expenses, but it also seems to be about racking up the campaign war-chest with the next elections in mind, and being prepared for new coalitions for power. And in the new coalitions, the amount of money one brings to the table is as

important as "numbers" in determining hierarchy.

This eating message trickles down to our security services, whose capacity to line their pockets has expanded exponentially. Thus the Westgate fiasco where looting and grabbing seemed officially sanctioned. Thus the Somali swoops where the Somalis are seen as ATMs. And thus the recent police recruitment-cum-auction. In this environment, all that any terrorist or big time crook needs to do is pay and they have their way.

Third, the loud anti-west campaign has had consequences. Our security services, for better or worse, have been aligned with western security services in terms of intelligence sharing, training and support. We have not yet established as close links with the East to whom we have rhetorically turned (nor learnt Mandarin sufficiently to communicate better). By insulting the west, it makes their agencies less willing to cooperate with us, and if they do, it makes their messages fall on deaf ears given all the abuse against them.

And through all this, the regime propaganda machine churns out its incredible stories that blame everyone but themselves. They have tried to pin it on the Opposition; and they have claimed that it is the evil west carrying out terror attacks.

But comical as this propaganda is, it is also deadly, for by covering up the inadequacies of our security structures and services, it puts us all at more risk. That is playing games with our lives.

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DIFFERENT STROKES | Gabriel Dolan

We need an honest debate on tribalism

“

Autocratic rule and derogation of the rule of law has made the President's own people take the abuse that he is insulated from”

since events such as the slaughter in Mpeketoni, the grenade attacks in Gikomba and Thika Road as well as the loss of life from poisoned liquor does give rise to fears that the community is under systematic attack. Suggestions that we have 41 against 1 are resurfacing, giving rise to notions of victimhood that leave the community more vulnerable, introverted and insecure.

Why should this happen just a year after their son was elected President? Entitlement and victimhood appear as the two ends of the pendulum in

this rather dangerous narrative that is rarely analysed or dissected. Victimhood leads to entitlement which in turn is resented and another round of perceived persecution begins. Where are the conversations and leadership that can bring hope, openness and inclusivity at this critical time?

Yet, these conversations must go national as ethnic prejudices are equally culpable. If the general perception is that Jubilee has made skewed appointments at every level to favour the communities of the President and his Deputy, why are their entire communities expected to carry their cross? It is also wise to recall that the Kikuyu community thrived and prospered even when frustrated during the Moi era. They then illustrated they don't need favours but space to develop their potential.

Indeed, I hear prudent voices advising that life would be much more comfortable if they did not have one of their own

in the top seat for the next 20 years or more. Put another way, autocratic rule and derogation of the rule of law has made the President's own people take the abuse that he is insulated from.

What is happening is a return to autocratic rule by the elite for the elite. Not so much the tyranny of numbers as the tyranny of autocratic elites who represent the powerful interests of the privileged, not of the masses. The right to protest is being eroded daily and we are told that this is the price for economic progress. So Kenya looks east to autocracy instead of west and democracy. Kalenjins, Kikuyus, Luos and everyone else are just as risk to the gradual loss of freedoms which, ironically, are the only way to promote holistic progress. Regrettably, the media are an integral part of that elitism and deny us the debate that is so urgently needed.

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POLITICALLY CORRECT |

Kwamchetsi Makokha's sideways look at the Lamu land question

Locals in Lamu rising against impunity at last



Fourteen months after the Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission tried to smear the President's family name with falsehoods, the truth is finally coming out.

If there is conflict over land at Kenya's coast, it is because of latter-day corruption and impunity as recent as 2011 whose odorous pong is so characteristic of the Grand Coalition government — not the benign activities of the founding President to bring development closer to the people of Lamu.

Of course, all the right-thinking members of the Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission edited out these innuendo by foreign commissioners on the payroll of foreign masters and presented a much truer version of events but still, there are those who wish to create a false equivalence of guilt between the benign actions of the founding president Jomo Kenyatta to introduce development in Lamu with the brazen buccaneering unearthed in the recent land allocations scam. None matches the other in scale, intention or daring.

At independence, when people were asked to come out and claim their ancestral land, few in Lamu did so. Subsequently, as the TJRC report notes, "All the land in what currently constitutes Lamu County, was categorised as government land, while the local indigenous population was considered as squatters..." It is a poorly kept secret that the people of Lamu neither enjoy nor excel at reproduction.

Worried about the possible extinction of the tiny Lamu population being swallowed up by too much earth, the founding President alienated for himself a mere 250 acres of land, especially portions on the beach to keep the whales at bay, gifted his son a little land as a wedding gift, and decreed that the rest become trust land. Although the founding President, Jomo Kenyatta, knew that there would be a port in Lamu as early as 1965, he directed that the rest of the trust lands be converted into settlement schemes — where people he could trust to motivate the local population into living competitively. This is precisely why the proportion of indigenous coastal community members settled in the schemes was between 15 and 20 per cent of the total population. In an effort to raise the stakes, some of the coast community members who received letters of allotment had their land subsequently appropriated from them as a life challenge to see if they would survive.

The bevy of copycats, who wield no power and have no sense of style, descended on the corridor where the route to the Lamu Port is supposed to be built, parcelled out thousands of acres of farmland to themselves, and waited for a payoff, are common criminals. Local people are angry that land that had been alienated by the founding President for development is being wantonly grabbed; that their indigenous inheritance which they had ceded to the government as trust land for the settlement of all squatters as their contribution to national cohesion is being purloined.

This must be why they have been secretly rising up in arms, burning police stations, killing police officers and civilians as a protest against the impunity and corruption perpetrated by the Grand Coalition government. The orders to return this land to be returned to the government forthwith will enable the local community to sell it afresh to the government as it prepares to build the Lamu Port-Southern Sudan-Ethiopia Transport corridor. And some clever people want to stand in the way of that development.

Who do these latter-day land buccaneers think they are — the Kenyattas?

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Empathy, too, is required,

POINT BLANK | Godwin Murunga

Governance is not about propaganda, it is all about delivering on promises



There appears to be a changing mood among Kenyans as reality hits home hard for Jubilee

The most illuminating single video on social media this week was that of Mr Chris Gunness, a United Nations spokesman, who reportedly broke down and uncontrollably cried during a television interview. The reason was the devastating human impact of murders in Gaza.

Mr Gunness is a former BBC reporter, who now works for the UN's Relief and Works Agency. Mr Gunness certainly knows the choreography and rehearsed poise expected of someone before live cameras. He tried to remain stoic in his appearance; aiming to articulate his views professionally and objectively.

At some point, he started speaking haltingly, tried unsuccessfully to compose himself and keep talking. But the memory of the devastating murders, vile destruction and crude propaganda that goes into explaining away the persisting carnage in Palestine overwhelmed him. He broke down completely. The cameras turned away but his loud sobbing remained audible.

This story is an important commentary on the intricate interplay between objectivity and empathy; the fact that journalists, like historians,

are, before they write their story, always part of the story. Journalists tend to believe that they shape the story; but, in fact, the story has ways of shaping journalists in perceptible and imperceptible ways.

Mr Gunness's story is, for me, a useful entry point into the introspective mood that seems to have engulfed Kenya in recent times and in which our media are a key player. A good many Kenyans who were enthusiastic about the Jubilee Government, some often unreasonably, are not too loud anymore. Many who chastised civil society and accused it of complicity with foreign powers seeking to rock the digital Jubilee boat no longer remember the distinction they drew between analog and digital.

Even Cord, which was so thoroughly overwhelmed with the social media harassment seems to have reinvented itself. With the exception of the occasional misfit who cannot discern a changing public mood, the social media propaganda that dismissed everyone expressing a dissenting view in the same terms as religious heresy is no longer heard.

The reason for this changing mood is Jubilee's mounting failures. These



The government is unable to deal with insecurity.

failures do not affect only the five million who voted for Mr Raila Odinga.

In fact, one could credibly argue that while the general problems of corruption and increased taxation hit all poor Kenyans in equal measure, the problem of insecurity discriminates and targets people differently and tends to be regionally specific.

The rising prices of basic commodities affect the poor more. There are those people who never look at the prices of commodities when they shop. Some do not need to carry paper money into the supermarket. They simply swipe cards, and their expenditure can be approved even if they do not have real money in the account.

Others, however, have to calculate the amount in the pocket before taking the walk to the shop. Many of these people

who carefully count the coins are our relatives or friends. Others work for us as private security guards or in related jobs. In other words, whether cushioned from the negative effects of a bad economy or not, we live in the immediacy of the economic challenges affecting relatives, friends or workers.

Soon after last year's vote, we thought we could wish away these challenging realities through propaganda. But the reality is hitting home and our capacity to empathise will not allow us to swallow empty promises and propaganda.

When, this week, the effects of insecurity on tourism forced otherwise diplomatic players in the sector to lash out at the continuing propaganda of the Kenya Tourism Board's managing director, I knew that the truth might prevail, even if temporarily. After all, who is keen to listen to a director who paints a picture of a rosy tourist industry when hotels are empty? Governance is not about propaganda, it is about delivering things.

Godwin Murunga is Senior Research Fellow, Institute for Development Studies, University of Nairobi

FAIR PLAY | Peter Mwaura

Why police want to be debt collectors

“

The police are having a field day with debt collecting. They detain people under the charge of obtaining money by ‘false pretences’ for what are essentially civil debts”

March 3, 2014, Mr Justice Jairus Nyagah said in a judgment on Macharia Ruchachu v Director of Public Prosecution & Attorney-General that the prosecution of Mr Ruchachu was influenced by ulterior motives. “The criminal case against him was for a purpose other than upholding the criminal law. It was meant to bring pressure to bear upon the applicant to settle a civil dispute,” he said.

He went on: “Criminal prosecution cannot be used to compel a party to settle a civil dispute. The institution of a criminal case for a purpose other than upholding the criminal justice was an abuse of the criminal process.”

The police are having a field day with debt collecting. They detain people under

the charge of obtaining money by “false pretences” for what are essentially civil debts, which should not require police intervention. Like traffic work, this is a much liked police pastime.

Last week it was reported that police at Kasarani in Nairobi arrested Fredrick Mburu, technician who later died in the cells, for “obtaining money through pretence”. It was reported he owed Sh600 to a spares retailer. According to Mburu’s family, the initial debt was Sh3,600 and he had paid Sh3,000.

Often, the police conveniently arrest their victims on a Friday to keep them in the cells over the weekend as a way of pressurising them to pay up. If that does not work, they take them to court on Monday and oppose bail because “investigations are still going on”.

They rely on Sections 312 and 313 of the Penal Code, which, to put it simply, state that false pretence is the crime of knowingly making untrue statements to obtain money or property fraudulently. But they stretch the law to net all creditors and defaulters — at the behest of their apparent clients.

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MARK MY WORD |

Philip Ochieng

Why this is not a legitimate word of English



Though I found it in one of our weekend newspapers, the word “irreplacable” does not exist in English. If it did, the “c” would have the “k” sound and the word would rhyme with *implacable*. Why? Because, in English *orthography*, that is the rule whenever the consonant “c” is followed by the vowel “a”, “o” or “u”.

The word *orthography* is composed of two Greek words – *ortho* (meaning “correct”) and *graphien* (which means “to write”). Literally, then, *orthography* means “correct writing”, which refers to accuracy in the authorised or conventional spelling of words.

The instances with which English teems include *academy* (akademi), *economy* (ikonomi) and *curry* (kari). On the other hand, whenever the “c” is followed by an “e”, “i” or “y”, it takes the “s” pronunciation. *Peaceable*, *cigarette* and *infancy* are just some of the plethora of examples.

This gives our primary learners of English a great deal of trouble with regard to spelling *vis-a-vis* pronunciation. What does one do with the “e” whenever one has to turn a word with a “ce” ending into another part of speech?

The adjective *peaceable*, which we have just mentioned, contains a good orthographical answer to that question.

It is in order to maintain the original “s” sound that you have to retain the vowel “e” as you pass from the noun *peace* to the adjective *peaceable*. If you fail to retain that “e”, you will end up with “*peacable*” (without an “e”), a word whose “c” – because it is followed by an “a” – must thus take the “k” sound.

If “*peacable*” existed, the “a” after the “c” would constrain us to bring it out of the mouth as “*peakable*” — an adjective which, if it existed, would describe eminences whose summits can be reached by, for instance, human beings.

The mission of theistic religion is to convince you that “heaven” — the most eminent of all the utopic summits — is totally *peakable*.

To orchard keepers, *peaking* may also refer to that time when trees reach the height of fruition.

It is to avoid the sound confusion between this “*peakability*” and the *peaceability* of international dream that, into the latter, we intrude an “e” between the “c” and the “a” to come up with the Church’s “*peaceable* Kingdom”.

Thus, if our reporter and sub-editor had inserted an “e” into their word “*irreplacable*”, they would have come up with “*irreplaceable*” (note the second “e”), a much more legitimate word in English. But it is only by doing so that they would have maintained the “s” sound congenital in the elemental word *place* or *replace*.

Whenever the consonant “c” is followed by the vowel “a”, “o” or “u”, but must, nevertheless, keep the “s” sound, French *orthography* has a simple solution. In writing, you just append a tail-like mark called *cedilla* to the bottom of the “c”.

As Collins puts it, a *cedilla* is “...a character put underneath a c, especially in French and Portuguese, indicating that it is to be pronounced (s), not (k)...”

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QUOTED

“We will not allow ODM and Cord MPs to be compromised with issues of land”

Cord Deputy Chief Whip Jakoyo Midiwo, on the threat to kick several Coast Cord MPs out of parliamentary committees

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COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KITUI



COUNTY MINISTRY OF LANDS, INFRASTRUCTURE AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

PUBLIC NOTICE

DEVELOPMENT CONTROL WITHIN KITUI COUNTY

In response to the noted illegal developments and occupations in Kitui County Towns, Market centers and other urban areas, and pursuant to The Constitution of Kenya 2010 Chapter 5 Article 62 (2) The Physical Planning Act Cap 286, Environmental Management and Co-ordination Act 1999, The Roads Act 2007 and The County Governments Act 2012, the County Government of Kitui intends to and does hereby notify its residents and developers of the following:

The County Government of Kitui has the mandate and power to:

- Regulate and control development within her area of jurisdiction (land and buildings),
- Control or prohibit subdivision of land or existing plots into smaller areas or otherwise as may be objectionable,
- Consider and approve all development applications and grant all development permissions,
- Ensure the proper execution and implementation of approved physical development plans,
- Formulate policies and enact laws to regulate zoning in respect of use and density of development,
- Reserve and maintain all the land planned for open spaces, parks, urban forests and green belts in accordance with the approved development plans,
- Initiate enforcement of the law against those who do not comply with the above.

In view of the above, residents and developers are hereby advised to **STRICTLY** observe and adhere to the following:

- All upcoming developments MUST have approval from The County Government and any illegal developments **SHALL** be demolished at the owner's cost.
- All completed developments that have been or were built illegally or without following the right procedure and approvals must be regularized within **one months** from the date of this notice and be issued with occupation certificate, failure to which they will be condemned. Regularize, in this case means: Have a plan showing the existing architectural design (present a copy of the same to the County Government of Kitui) and have it considered accordingly.
- Any illegal developments on reserve land (settlement land, road reserves, riparian areas and on public utilities) should be removed within **one months** of this notice failure to which they shall be removed without further notice whatsoever, at developer's cost.
- All subdivisions/amalgamations must be duly submitted for approvals. Buyers/ Investors are **warned of illegal alienation and sale of public land**.
- No approvals shall be granted for buildings taller than 4 (four) floors without the provision for vehicle parking and lift facilities.

Other requirements with respect to building plan approvals include:

- Ownership documents,
- 5 (five) copies of Building Plan together with the following:
 - Recommended building line observed,
 - Signature and stamp from a registered architect and/or engineer and a copy of their certificate of registration attached,
 - Valid location plan,
 - Ample vehicle parking provided,
 - Plot coverage not beyond the recommended planning ratio,
 - Planning brief attached, where applicable,
 - Other provisions as per the Building Code and the Physical Planning Act.

- Any existing land committees and such parties are NOT allowed to allocate or alienate land or approve physical development in their respective areas. It should be noted that alienation of public land and related activities is the role of National Land Commission in consultation with the County Government as per CoK 2010

- The general public is also **advised not to buy land** without confirming the authenticity of the ownership from the County Government.
- All developers are required to comply with all other relevant laws relating to building and other development applications.

The same information can be viewed in the County Government of Kitui **Website** www.kitui.go.ke

All enquiries related to this notice and matters therein to be referred to: **Chief Officer, County Ministry of Lands, Infrastructure and Urban Development**.

Hon. (Eng.) Paul C. K. Kioko
County Minister for Lands, Infrastructure and Urban Development
COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KITUI

To the editor

Let us offer only positive criticism to our leaders

President Uhuru Kenyatta is right. People should stop insulting one another, be it in the public, social media or anywhere else. We should offer positive criticism where it is deserved. Negative criticism and insults will divide the already polarised Kenyans. Positive criticism can lead to a correction of our leaders' mistakes and take this country forward. We should give the government time to work and judge it on how far it delivers on its election promises. President Kenyatta and Deputy President William Ruto are barely two years in office and they are being told that they have failed to deliver. Two years is too short to gauge their success.

MUNGAI MWANGI, Mweiga, Nyeri

CDF doing a good job in Butula, Budalang'i

Last week, the Kiambaa and Kabete constituencies' CDF committees jointly visited Budalang'i and Butula to see their projects. Busia County has no cash crops, but we noticed that their CDFs were nurturing today's cash crop — education. We saw numerous education projects funded by the CDF, including Benga University in Butula that will open its doors to students next year. Amazing. We also visited veteran politician James Osogo, a former Cabinet minister. We were warmly welcomed by Mr and Mrs Osogo. Budalang'i and Butula CDFs are good examples of transparency and dedication to their communities. Oh, and the busaa was delicious!

CHARLES NDUNGI, chairman, Kabete CDFC

Serious audit of county assemblies long overdue

The ongoing investigation by the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission and Salaries and Remuneration Commission into the fiscal mismanagement of all the 47 counties is a step in the right direction. County assemblies' devastating acts of impunity have crippled development in most counties. The explosion of corrupt and crooked practices has irreparably damaged the counties' image. It is our hope that the audit reports will not gather dust in the archives. The time to walk the talk is now.

JOSEPH G. MUTHAMA, Thika

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION

How should we fight immorality among youth?

JEFF CHEPKWONY: Parents play a major role in shaping the destiny of the child. Youth should be enrolled in sensitisation programmes on the dangers of immorality.

ELAIS JUNIOR: Young peo-

ple should be taught righteousness and adults should be their role models.

KAGWE WARUTA: The young have no guardians since parents are busy chasing money, while their teach-

ers are constantly on strike. Parents should start by creating time for their children.

LINCOLN M. KINYUA: Introduce sex education in schools and teach youth on the dangers of immorality.

The editor welcomes brief letters on topical issues. Write on e-mail to: mailbox@ke.nationmedia.com You can also mail to: The Editor, Daily Nation, POB 49010, Nairobi 00100.

TALKING POINT

State must deal decisively with poaching menace in our parks

As Kenya grapples with a serious downturn in the tourism industry occasioned by travel advisories, mainly by the Western countries following a series of terrorist attacks, a sudden upsurge in poaching in our game conservancies is posing another serious challenge.

Tsavo National Park, the largest game conservancy in the country, has been assailed by poachers out to make a kill from the precious game trophies. Statistics show that over 100 jumbos have been killed in the recent past and the criminals seem unrelenting in their quest for ivory.

Despite the concerted efforts by the Kenya Wildlife Service, there are reasons to fear that the war against poaching is far from being won.

It is commendable that so far about six poachers have been gunned down in Tsavo in the last two months. But that is only pyrrhic victory, coming after hundreds of jumbos have been killed.

One key area that our security organs must invest in is surveillance and intelligence. This could assist in apprehending some of the culprits alive. The felons can then be interrogated



FILE | NATION
The KWS assistant director in charge of the Mountain region, Mr Aggrey Maumo, examines an elephant killed by poachers at Aberdare National Park on March 23.

to shed more light on who is bankrolling them, where the tusks are destined for and where the arms used in the heinous activities are sourced.

Investigations should also be carried out to establish whether some security personnel could be the enemy-within factor cannot be wished away, given that some of the poaching cases leave a lot of unanswered questions.

A case in point is the recent killing of one of the oldest elephants in Tsavo nicknamed "Satao". The 45-year-old bull elephant was killed and both tusks, weighing about 50 kilos

each, spirited away. This happened despite the fact that Satao was always under armed guard.

Another issue that needs to be looked into is the lack of adequate security personnel to man the vast park. Measuring over 21,000 square kilometres, the same size as Israel, Tsavo is a wilderness, which cannot be patrolled easily.

Investing in more game rangers and equipping them with modern surveillance technology, especially night vision equipment, might go a long way in dealing with the poaching menace.

PASCAL MWANDAMBO, Voi

Leaders should fulfil promises to northern Kenya voters

Northern Kenya is synonymous with all that is wrong with Kenya. But was it by design or default that the region is so marginalised? The answers can be found in the three counties of Mandera, Wajir and Garissa. The region has suffered from the colonial days to date. But save for the Shifta secession war, the region always votes for the government in power.

The old Constitution was silent on issues of human rights and equitable distribution of resources. Those days, it was normal for the provincial administrators to use excessive force against the people.

The region lacks infrastructure, unlike

other areas. It lags behind in agriculture and education. Road construction has been used as an election campaign tool over the years. During every campaign period, the people are promised such goodies as the tarmacking of the Garissa-Mandera road, which are never fulfilled, and not because a particular candidate didn't end up at State House. President Uhuru Kenyatta should tell us when the government will fulfil the 50-year-old promise.

The Constitution of 2010 is a pillar of hope. Devolved funds will for the first time be managed by locally elected leaders.

AHMED IBRAHIM UGAS, via e-mail

DEBATE QUESTION

Are senators right to take over the financial planning of counties?

Send your comments to mailbox@ke.nationmedia.com

THE CUTTING EDGE

BY THE WATCHMAN

ROAD HOGS. The government should reduce matatu fares "as they are too expensive for ordinary Kenyans", urges Mohammed Fazal Hussein. Other countries, he adds, have government-sponsored public transport, which charges nominal fares. "There are no standards regulating matatus and they are driven as if the roads are meant for them alone." He cites Dubai as an example where public transport is well-organised and the "drivers very professional" because discipline is instilled through heavy penalties. His contact is mohammed78611021@hotmail.com.

MOTORBIKE ROBBERS. During the Idd-ul-Fitr holiday on Tuesday, Aunally Maloo reports, a duo of hardcore motorbike criminals had a field day, riding up and down Wambugu Road, robbing pedestrians and motorists of their belongings in the Parklands area of Nairobi, with shocking bravado and impunity. Aunally is thus appealing to the Officer Commanding Parklands Police Station to take measures to bring the menace to an end.

DAMAGED ROADS. Even as he appreciates the efforts Mombasa Water and Sewerage Company is making to expand supply, Martin Makundi is not amused at the wanton damage to roads to lay the pipes. "Most of the roads have been left in tatters and with blocked drains. Whenever roads are dug up to instal huge pipes, the trenches are filled up with loose soil, instead of restoring them to the original condition. The repair will cost the county even more." His contact is makundih@yahoo.com.

CUSTOMER CARE. A Nairobi surgeon says that against his better judgment, he booked to fly economy to London on KLM via Amsterdam on July 25, paying extra to reserve "preferred seats" for him and his wife (KL0566). He was told the seats "have extra leg space". When he checked on line, he failed to see the "preferred seats". But he thought this would be rectified at the check-in. At the KLM desk, at JKIA, he was told the seats had been occupied and they could claim a refund. "It's appalling to do this to a 'Frequent Flier', who booked four months in advance."

MAKE PEACE. Japan, Germany, and Italy can never dream of war again because of the humiliation they suffered during the Second War, says Paul Mwangi. Instead, he adds, the three countries, which were defeated by the US and its Allies, "resolved to tackle their problems using artificial intelligence and advanced technology". African leaders, he advises, should learn from the "peacocks of the 1940s" to avoid a similar humiliating fate. His contact is PMwangi@eacables.com.

Have a wiser day, won't you!

ON THIS DATE IN 1980

COMPILED BY AUGUSTINE NYAGAH



DENTAL UNIT. The Minister for Health, Mr Arthur Magugu, addresses guests during the official opening of the Lions Dental Unit, off Uyoma Road, Nairobi, which will be operated by the Lions Club of Nairobi.

City Girl



With Njoki Chege

nchege@ke.nationmedia.com

She is bold, sassy and audacious. See it through her prism and ride the roller coaster life of Nairobi's young and trendy.

Spare your man torture of smelly weave

I pity men who sleep next to women with stinking weaves. The torture they endure is worse than staying in prison. A real woman will wear her natural hair

A ny self-respecting woman will not put a weave on her beautiful head, something that I will from now henceforth refer to as 'that thing on your head'. Hopefully after reading this piece, you will reach out for a pair of scissors and do your man and the rest of the world a favour by removing that piece of junk from your head.

I don't care how expensive it is. I once interviewed a salonist in Westlands who told me that the most expensive weave she sells retails at Sh500,000.

But get the point, it doesn't matter if you bought yours in River Road for Sh350 or Westlands at Sh500,000. A weave is a weave is a weave.

It is a dirty and unhygienic piece of rubbish that hosts animals like bed bugs and lice. It doesn't matter if the weave is Brazilian, Peruvian or Indian. Fake hair is fake hair. And it tells a lot about your fake personality and that you have self-esteem issues.

I can look at your weave and deduce a lot about you. Baby issues. Relationship problems. In short, a one big mess. To think that your sophistication is calibrated by the inches of your weave is fooling yourself.

No amount of Peruvian or Brazilian hair will boost your self-esteem. Just because you spent Sh500,000 on a weave does not make you tasteful. It makes you cut-rate.

It shows that your self-esteem is pegged on those smelly strands of hair sold by poor Indian women or cut from dead people in Asia.

A weave cheapens you. It devalues you. It makes you look like you are trying so hard to be somebody you are not. Actually, the longer your weave, the more issues you got. The truth is, you look nothing like Beyoncé or

Rihanna. You look nothing like your idol Jennifer Lopez or Eva Longoria. Most women who wear weaves do so because they cannot stand the look of themselves, their true self in their natural hair, because they have destroyed their hair with chemicals and poor care. They have receding hairlines and when stripped off that weave, they look 10 years older. Just ask the men they go home to. It's terrible!

Now, let's talk about weaves and hygiene. If my knowledge

serves me right, how many times a month is the expensive Westlands weave washed and treated? Let's assume twice a month. Then it is dried, tonged and styled. Mark you, it is the weave that is washed, not the hair.

On the other hand, the River Road weaves are not washed in many cases, unless the rain corners you. Now, here is where the problem lies. That thing on your head lasts for months? Let's say two months at the bare minimum.

Yet, you sweat and walk around in dusty and smoky streets. Now, imagine the stench from sweat, combined with smoke and dust and topped up with that mouldy smell it gets after it has been rained on but didn't dry properly.

Add to that the low-cost hairsprays and lotions you apply on that weave and finish it off with the occasional splash of soapy water

when you are showering. Now multiply that with 60 days. A sheep that has been rained on would smell better.

When you pass by they say, "Natio huyo" without even looking up from their desks because you are known by your stench. You are known by that strange whiff emanating from that thing on your head, not your beauty, not your magnificent body.

Then, you will not stop patting that thing with your palm regularly because it is sort of a zoo for small animals like lice.

I pity men who sleep next to such women. The torture they endure is worse than staying in Industrial Area Prison for six months. Ladies, even if your man is bad, he does not deserve the torture of a smelly weave.

No wonder some men do not get into bed until way past 1am, and they are up by 6am.

A real woman worth her dignity will not fall victim of this pyramid scheme that is weaves. No matter how tempting it is. A real woman will wear her natural hair, proudly so.

A real woman will flaunt her forehead, like I do mine, and not hide it under that fake smelly thing. A real woman will take stock of her hair, realise what she is doing wrong with it and correct it before it is too late.

Forget Beyoncé and her extensions. That is showbiz my dear. Her weave is no real than her marriage. In the same way you will never ever land a Jay-Z, you will never look like Beyoncé in that weave.

Sorry girls, but that is the truth. That weave is for that kind of life. You are not a Hollywood star and you will never be. Plus, see how Lupita is rocking her natural hair and Hollywood loves it. That's because she is real with herself, that

is, she has accepted the shape of her head and flaunts it.

I am particularly impressed by a certain TV presenter who wears her hair natural and I think she is the ultimate role model for women who have pent-up issues and are hiding them in those stinky weaves.

Furthermore, I know for a fact that men don't like weaves. That one who told you it looks good simply said it for the sake of peace in the house. Otherwise he wishes you'd respect yourself a little. I also know for a fact that men love natural hair. They love playing with hair and they love running their fingers through it. Don't blame them; a man will only love what he doesn't have.

Nothing turns off a man more than running his fingers through your head only for him to be caught up in a web of threads and fake hair. Add to that the fact that your hair smells like his shoe.

Let's woman up, ladies. Let's respect ourselves. Yes, we have kinky hair that cannot be pulled into a pony tail. Yes, our hairlines have gone to be with the Lord. But there are many options, forget that thing on your head.

You can rock a natural afro today, braid it tomorrow for two weeks, or relax it. Just get creative with your hair and stop falling for those scams called weaves. Young girls, the simpler your hair is, the more exotic you look.

And by the way, I see 18-year-old wearing weaves. For the sake of the womenfolk, why do that at such a tender age?

A little secret ladies. No matter what a woman wears, the only thing that will turn a man on is how you wear it. With confidence. Add that with your *au naturelle* look and your man will never text Sheila again!



YOUR FEEDBACK

It is always a great pleasure to wake up to torrents of e-mails, tweets and comments regarding this page. Last week's golden rules for losing weight, a sarcastic piece, was received with mixed reactions. Some were tickled, others were pissed off and others remained clueless. Below is your feedback.

I don't agree with your so called solutions to weight loss. Reading between the lines, it's riddled with what I would call "hitting back at your detractors". Sample this; "She is inexperienced, what does she know! Run down the messenger". It could have been better if indeed you researched on real time solutions and not what you wrote and ironically gave the title "golden! "Really!"

Musa Moss

Immoral. Whereas your employer describes your rather sad personality as bold, sassy and audacious, you're simply immoral.

Waswa Simiyu

Dodging responsibility is what I feel as the most potent tool applied

by Kenyans in weight matters. Procrastinating is another - when I have the time, the money, and the morale. When it doesn't work, they jump into conclusions and stretch their luck. We have a time bomb in our hands as a nation and we need to take responsibility. Great work and keep it up.

Ashton Zai

I write this with all the honesty I owe you. I only turn to your 'City Girl' column after devouring everything else in the Saturday Nation including obituaries of complete strangers. Reason, you're fond of telling me nothing new and if it is any new, then it's unfit for human application. God forbid that my nowhere-yet-wife happens to be your student. Any-way,

every creature has its role on this lonely planet. Perhaps yours is to amuse the fools and infuriate the wise. But, two pluses for you. One, the satire in your July 26 article conjured a rare grin on my face. Two, you always succeed in pulling me to your column and in so doing, weekly leaving me hating you.

Muturi Nduati

The reason why Njoki Chege has provoked some virulent haters like Raymond Munyoki (July 19) is because we are a nation of hypocrites who are very averse to truth and reality. The so-called upper middle-class are the worst-hit. They troop to church without fail every Sunday, and after church they proceed to break seven of the Ten Commandments within the next six days. This hypocrisy makes many culprits shell-shocked and scared that Njoki Chege

might expose them for what they truly are: shameless liars, pretenders, con artists, swindlers, thieves, serial adulterers and even murderers. And because many of them are intellectual midgets, they feel thoroughly threatened by Njoki's high-calibre intelligence, cutting wit and sharp sense of humour. They are morbidly interested in knowing her age, as if it matters. I would personally read her articles whether she was 16 or 60. What matters is the content, not the writer's age Take 'em on, Njoki!

Rumba Kinuthia (Lawyer)

Dear Chege. I missed your bite in today's writing. The article was way too defensive. You were hitting back at the attacks that have been levelled at you recently. That you were the subject of opinions from the pulpit to the bedrooms shows just how far literature standards and our understanding have fallen as a nation.

Nancy Ngigi

Hi, please don't tone down your pen. Curve your niche and protect it. Funny enough in my circles we talk about your

hot topics and majority agree with you. Keep society on its toes; snap it out of a pretentious mode."

Kanyi Gioko

Hey, I enjoy your articles just wanted to know how can I buy u chai (tea)"

E. Odhiambo

@DannMwangi : @njokichege Sarcasm laced it with word play is #winning in art circles!

@SDMaundu: @njokichege has a knack for kicking a fat gal when she's down. Those five weight loss ideas are just absolutely wicked. Yesu Kristo, what next?

@kang_ara: @njokichege Some call it sarcasm, I call it embodiment of sarcasm. Great pearl of wisdom to 'em-all-fat'!

@NginaOkeyo: @njokichege hehe. Pepeta moto tu

@DruThuku: @njokichege responds to critics in a harder hitting article, the sarcasm!!

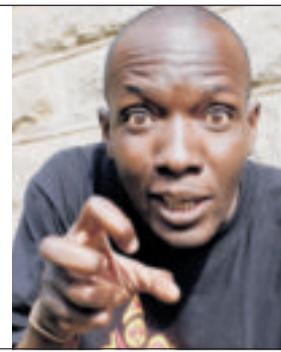
@miss_ndungu: You got to love @njokichege's sarcasm in today's column.Lol!!



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SATURDAY NATION

Weekend



THESPIANS OUT TO REVIVE STORYTELLING
Group of artists in Nakuru town determined to bring back a dying art. **Page 36**

INTERVIEW | Scholar speaks on his many years of teaching in Africa and Europe

Topan: Here is the problem with East African Kiswahili

Dr Farouk Topan, the grandfather of the language in East Africa, pioneered the study of the region's lingua franca at the University of Dar es Salaam and the University of Nairobi in the late 1960s and then settled in Europe, where he recently retired after many years of teaching



BY TOM ODHIAMBO
satnation@ke.nationmedia.com

On the sidelines of the 'Kiswahili Symposium and Colloquium on New Dynamics in Swahili Studies' at the University of Bayreuth in Germany between June 8 and 14, the *Saturday Nation* spoke to Dr Farouk Topan.

Dr Topan, now retired, is among the pioneer lecturers in Kiswahili at the universities of Dar es Salaam and Nairobi. He taught Kiswahili for several

years in various universities in the world and retired from the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London, in 2006, but continues to research and mentor students of Kiswahili at various institutions, most recently The Aga Khan University in London.

Q: Tell us how you landed in literature and the education system you went through.

Dr Topan: I went to England at 19 from my 'A' levels, then did a degree in Anthropology, Linguistics and Literature at the School of African and Oriental Studies, University of London. Then I used the three disciplines to develop my PhD research topic, which was on spirit possession. I looked at the 'Kipemba' cult in Changamwe, Mombasa. The thesis was based on looking at the values and practices of the 'Pungwa' and the types of oral literature generated from the cult.

When did your teaching career begin?

I began in 1968, at the University of Dar es Salaam. I went there in between my PhD and started teaching Swahili Literature in Kiswahili; that was for the first time. Then in 1969, with Prof Abdul Aziz, we started a BA in Swahili and Linguistics. In July 1970, the University of East Africa was divided into the universities of Makerere, Nairobi, and Dar es Salaam and with that came the establishment of the Department of Swahili at the University of Dar es Salaam and I became the chairperson. I can say this was by default because the idea was that Abdul Aziz would have been the head of the department, but he went to the

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We should expand Swahili to ask: How does Swahili relate to other disciplines... so that there is an understanding not only of the vocabulary, but of the capacity of the language to deal with the other aspects of life”

Dr Farouk Topan

University of Nairobi to join the Department of Linguistics and African Languages.

After completing my PhD, I took up a position at the University of Nairobi in 1972, when Prof Andrew Gurr was the head of the Department of Literature. We had interesting colleagues at the time like Ngugi wa Thiong'o, Micere Mugo, Okot P'Bitek, and Bahadur Tejani. I taught a course on oral literature to first-year students alongside Okot P'Bitek.

I was there for two years before leaving for London. Then I developed an interest in Arabic and the Middle Eastern studies and went to the University of Riyadh and because I had completed my diploma in education, I taught English Literature. I remember teaching Shakespeare's Sonnet 'Shall I Compare Thee to a Summer's Day?' and it was the most difficult environment to teach such a poem because summer in Saudi Arabia is very hot and it's not what you'd look forward to, like in London. In fact, people run from the cities during summer to the mountains. When I asked them what season they'd compare their loved ones to, they unanimously said spring. In fact

CONTINUED ON PAGE 33

IN THEIR OWN WORDS | Kenyan authors speak

When not in uniform, I wear the creative cap of an author

My work allows me to meet and interact with all sorts of people who give me most of my story ideas

BY JEREMY LEARIWALA
satnation@ke.nationmedia.com

It has not been easy doing it, but I cannot stop writing. Despite the limited time and pressure of work, I still create time to think creatively and write.

I have published four books and I am currently working on another four.

There is hardly any free time in the police service, so I write when I am not actively involved in the service.

I love telling stories, but I love the police service too. I find writing the best way to serve the community because I am able to see and address the challenges people face.

I walk with a notebook, paper stickers and a pen so that when an idea pops up in my mind, I can note it down. This has really helped me because I have found myself building several stories at once.

This is because as a police officer, I come across many interesting incidents every day, from which I get different story ideas. The notes I put down help me to decide when I want to start developing a book because I put them down in form of ideas and scenes.

I initially used my mobile phone to write down the ideas, but I came to realise that notebooks and paper stickers were more effective because they made it easy for me to flow a story. I also developed the 'just put it down' formula once I got an idea.

I did not have much interest in writing until 1998 when I was in form three. I wrote an article which was published in Catholic magazine, *The Seed*.

Then I started writing letters to the editor in 2000, which boosted my morale because they used to get published.

I remember I once wrote a short story in one of the dailies titled *Baboon and Joana*. I was then a first year student at Egerton University's Kisii Campus.

I captured the drama in the story because it was something I witnessed at home in Samburu. One day we all went away to tend for the livestock. When we came back, Joana, my cousin went straight to the house. She did not know there were baboons inside, intent on stealing some food. The baboons attacked her, and I was there to capture the drama.

Many a times I write the ideas or even scenes of the stories I

want to do while with friends at the club, especially when we go watching soccer. I prefer such noisy places as the environment gives me concepts. I develop stories and story plots because my mind is alert.

I like it that way because I get some of the ideas from the conversations. My friends knowingly or unknowingly help me develop story ideas.

When I go silent during such a meeting, they understand that my creative mind is on and so they do not disturb me.

However, I can only compile an idea when I am not on active duty.

I am currently working on a short story derived from hit-and-run incidents. People will often just surround the victim and start discussing instead of helping him or her. This is because many people fear being implicated by police and, therefore, they find it better to leave such a person alone. So I have decided to do a short story titled *The Unknown Man*.

My writing captures everyday drama and happenings. I just try to make our society a better place to stay. Every story I do has to address a specific problem in the society... Writing is my passion and I will continue doing it. When I start writing, I do not stop until I have finished a chapter,

2001

The year Mutahi Miricho's first book *Writing School Compositions* was first published

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unless something major happens.”

Jeremy Leariwala

goats at a throw-away price especially during drought.

He then would go to the market and collect left-over food from hotels and feed the animals. He would then resell them at better prices at a later date. The story was published by a Netherlands-based magazine, *Footsteps*, among the best ten articles. I received an award of books worth \$100 (Sh9,000).

Lonely Girl was published in 2007, and I am looking forward to following in the footsteps of accomplished writers like Ken Walibora, who has inspired me so much, and others like Meja Mwangi.

My other book, *The Lethal Web*, is undergoing the final touches.

I know that I must do a lot of writing because I have seen so many challenges in society, especially in crime. Hence, I target the youth in most of my writing.

As told to Bernadine Mutanu



MY FAVOURITE BOOK

‘Nyota ya Rehema’ is my all-time favourite classic

BY RACHEL MAINA

satnation@ke.nationmedia.com

The first book that I read seriously was the Bible. It has some pretty good answers to what ails the world today. It is evergreen, an all-time best-seller. My father is a church minister, so there were many Bibles around, including some with the Apocrypha.

My father was quite strict and tried to control what his daughter, an avid reader, consumed. I was in class seven when he confiscated my copy of Ngugi wa Thiong'o's *Ngaahika Ndeenda* (I will Marry when I Want).

It was years later, during my post-graduate studies, when I finally read the Swahili translation of Ngugi's play and wished my father had let me read it back then. That incident did not kill my love for the written word, though, and I devoured any literature that came my way; some which I am sure my father would have impounded.

Although I read foreign literature, I enjoy reading what the Kenyan author writes because I can identify with the stories therein. I specialize in Swahili literature, but I do try to lead what is written in English.

I have read Swahili literature widely and could mention a few books that are really classics. Mohamed S. Mohamed's *Nyota ya Rehema* is one of them. Mohamed's heroine, Rehema, captivated me. Mine was not a polygamous family like Rehema's, but I got acquainted with polygamy at an early age. Our neighbours across the ridge lived in such a setting.

I enjoyed a good relationship with my father so I really pitied Rahma, whose name is later corrupted to Rehema, denounced by her father because of her dark skin, which makes her father, an Arab, think she is a product of her mother's unfaithfulness. Yet years later Rehema gives birth to a son, an exact replica of her father. Unfortunately the father dies before seeing his grandson, so she is not fully vindicated.

Similarly, I pitied Aziza, Rehema's mother, loving a man whose heart was another's, the evil Adila who, once she got her talons into Fuad, Rehema's father, Aziza's fate was sealed. Aziza knows Rehema is Fuad's daughter, her own mother having confirmed she resembled her mother, Rehema's great grandmother. Aziza is banished to far away Ramwe.

Later when her mother passes on, Rehema is brought back to her father's household to work as a maid. Her tribulations make her run away in a fit of anger into the forest. Hurt and exhausted, she loses consciousness. She is saved by the 'country bumpkin' Sulubu who nurses her back to health.

At Kidawa's behest, she moves to town and the dark period of her life starts. Kidawa and her other roommates are prostitutes and finally Rehema succumbs to the environment. A lot has been written about the prostitution motif in African literature. Many writers paint prostitutes as the epitome of immorality; home breakers and disease peddlers. Some treat prostitution as a profession like any other.

Give Mohamed credit because he shows how that life can be hollow. Rehema longs for the peace and tranquillity she enjoyed the four days she spent with Sulubu. She traces him and they move to Ramwe. He is a hard worker and soon they become prosperous farmers.

Her paradise does not last long. The machinations of her step-sister's husband have them thrown out of Ramwe. They move to Pakani, a desolate piece of land which soon becomes productive. When the greedy spendthrift of brother-in-law again tries to deny Rehema what is rightfully hers yet again, Sulubu takes the law into his hands, killing the evil Karim. The resultant court case fuels a revolution. Sulubu is saved by a coup just before he is hanged for the murder. Finally Samir, Rehema's step-sister makes peace with her.

Often I read a book and I feel the author is trying too hard, inserting a simile, metaphor or proverb in every other sentence, trying to pepper the prose with heavy vocabulary. It chokes creativity. I enjoy reading M. S. Mohamed because of his style. He breathes life into the story then lets it tell itself. And there are many such classics in Swahili literature.

The writer is a teacher and student of Swahili language and literature

Tell us about a book that changed your life in not more than 800 words. Send your story to satnation@k.e.nationmedia.com

feedback

What you must do to get high yields from ...

I WANT TO EXPORT HORTICULTURE PRODUCE

My name is Bryan Huthu. I am dreaming of exporting agricultural products like fruits and vegetables. How can I make my dream true?

In Kenya, there are many products and other factors that can have direct export and local markets thus achieving your dream. These include mangoes, passion fruits and traditional vegetables, management, post-harvest practices and market value chains. What you need is to know where to do it because climate and soil play a critical role in quantity and quality of agricultural products. You also need to do a master plan and a five-year production plan if you want to start. Please look at what you already have done because it forms a basis of when you hit the export market.

Prof Paul Kimuru
Director Agro-science park Egerton University



SHEEP FARMING

Our farm is in Ndaragua, Nyandarua County. We currently have Merino sheep but they offer little economic value. We want to sell them all and begin taking sheep farming with the seriousness it deserves. We want to know what sheep breed will earn the most returns and what rearing practices we need to adopt and where is the potential market. I am also considering rearing rabbits, what is your advice?

Kavoi Maina

Ndaragua is in Nyandarua County in the north, where it borders Laikipia County. Climatic conditions of the area are an amalgamation of both the wet conditions characteristic of Nyandarua and hot conditions of the Laikipia County. Initially, Merino sheep were kept for their wool, which over time has lost market due to importation of cheap clothes. Compared to other breeds, it is relatively low in mutton production consequently lowering expected income. Kenya Agricultural Re-

search Institute, Oljoro Orok sub station has breeding stock for Corriedale and Hampshire Down where you can further inquire to purchase stock. Corriedale is a dual purpose breed, being a cross of Merino and Lincoln sheep. When well-managed, it is a good producer of both wool and meat. On the other hand, Hampshire Down is a meat sheep and is also a cross-breed of Hampshire and South Down breeds of UK. Both the breeds are good grazers and can do well in climatic conditions and terrain in Ndaragua. Mutton market is readily available from local and external butchers abundant in Nyandarua and Laikipia. Rabbits will also do well in Nyandarua and its surrounding.

Wangui Chege,
Egerton University
prejaw@gmail.com

NEW BEAN VARIETIES

Of the three new bean varieties from Egerton University, which would do well in Nyahururu and how many kilos per acre? **Gacanja**

Egerton has three new bean varieties namely Chelalang, Tasha and Cianku for medium and high potential areas. In slightly high potential areas like Molo and Nyahururu, we recommend you plant Chelalang. For an acre, you will need to plant 25kg, costing Sh250 per kilo and will yield between 800 to 1,000kg if you manage it well by controlling weeding and spraying against insects.

Prof Paul Kimuro,
Director Agro-science Park
Egerton University

I am very excited to learn there are more-improved high-yielding beans variety like Chelalang and Tasha. I have three-quarter of an acre in Banita, Nakuru and would like to plant Chelalang variety around mid-August. How much seeds would I need for this acreage? What's the best spacing and where else in Nakuru can I get the seeds other than Egerton University?

Sammy Kimotho

Egerton varieties are now popular among farmers and seed growers under contract



farming after signing an agreement with university through Agro-science Park to enable Kephis inspection. On an acre in Banita, we recommend you grow Chelalang or Tasha and for your three quarters of an acre and you need 22kg at a cost of Sh250 per kilo. Egerton bean seeds are distributed by Mea Ltd Nakuru, Menengai Veterinary Nakuru and Faida Seeds. Please Get in touch with me in case you have a problem on 0725309162.

Prof Paul Kimuro
Director Agro-science Park
Egerton University

WHERE DO I GET QUALITY SEEDS?

I have quarter an acre. I have subdivided

a section for sukuma wiki and I want the rest to plant traditional vegetables, especially managu, cowpeas and sagaa. Where can I get high quality seeds?

James Ongeti

Kenya Seed Company would be most ideal for good quality seeds of vegetables

Seeds of Gold Team
Egerton University

AGRICULTURE COURSE

Kindly furnish me with a course that can help me learn about dairy, poultry and potato farming and any other course that would assist in production and trade.

Collins Odhiss

The suitable programme for you depending on your qualifications will be diploma or BSc in Animal Sciences, Agricultural Extension and Education or Agriculture, all of which are offered at Egerton University. For further details, kindly visit the university website at www.egerton.ac.ke.

F N Kigen, Animal Science Department, Egerton University
kigenfrancis@yahoo.com



I NEED NORMANDE OR GIRLANDO CATTLE

Please advise on where I can get the Normande X, Girlando, Sahiwal, Zebu, Friesian or any other heifer crossbreeds that can survive in dry places, with higher productivity. I would be so grateful for your assistance and guidance on this.

Philip

Kindly note that there are no commercial farms producing sufficient Normande or Girlando cattle in Kenya for sale but one can get the Sahiwal cattle from Kari Naivasha Farm and other ranches in Laikipia, Kajiado and Nakuru where you can also source crossbreds of Zebu with Boran, and Friesian with Boran. It is important to give your farms location for easy direction. I advise you to visit the offices of Kenya Breeders Association in Nakuru ASK grounds where you can obtain further details on these cattle breeds.

Musyoka Duncan Mbai, Department of Animal Sciences, Egerton University
dumusyoka@gmail.com

ASK THE EXPERTS



Prof Bebe



Prof Ondura

Do you have any question or enquiry on agribusiness, marketing, logistics, processing, innovation, and technology? Our pool of experts from Egerton University will respond to your questions with proper advice. Please send your questions to: satnation@kenya.nationmedia.com. Read us online at nation.co.ke/seeds-of-gold

sheep and beans

ORNAMENTAL BIRDS

I am a young entrepreneur and I would like to reach Kimani, the farmer who lives in Utawala and rears birds.

Farmer

I am interested in rearing exotic birds like Raphael Kimani. Kindly let me have his contact please.

Ruth wanjiku

EDITOR: Talk to Kimani on 0728549677.

FRUITS SEEDLINGS

Please connect me to Irene Kalamai of Kapsabet. I am interested in buying passion fruit seedlings from her.

Sophie Redemptah Oyugis

EDITOR: Irene is available on 0722583274.

APPRECIATION

I am not a farmer neither do I have any land but I love nature and agriculture. However, I would like to point out two stories that contrasted each other. One was about a planting machine and emphasis was made on why it is good to leave the soil undisturbed on consecutive planting. The other was in the last issue about Benter Okeyo, who is now reaping more after investing on land preparations. In the story, an expert advised her that land should be ploughed three times before planting. Kindly shed more light on this and keep up the good work.

EDITOR: Thank you for reading. The first story was about a new way of farming, which farmers could try. The second story, as you pointed out, was about tilling land generally, which is another method of farming and the one widely used.

CLAY BROODERS

Please provide me with poultry farmer Makau's contact for my follow-up.

Reuben Kiuru

EDITOR: Makau can be reached on 0729725720, signaturebirds@gmail.com

FLECKVIEH BREEDER

I have read with keen interest about the qualities of the Fleckvieh cow.

I am in Uganda and do wish to know if I can arrange to purchase a pure young Fleckvieh bull of between six to eight months old.

EDITOR: Please reach Besseling's Genetics East Africa Limited on 0712095555.

VETIVER GRASS

Please let me have contacts of Caleb Omollo, who is growing vetiver grass in Rongo, Migori County.

Elizabeth

EDITOR: Omollo is available on 0714943355.

SUNFLOWER FARMER

Kindly give contacts of George Omondi of Village Level Bio Fuel Group, who trains farmers on how to grow the crop.

EDITOR: Contact the organisation through farmer Benter on 0700124473.



WATER PUMPS

My name is Andrew and I am in Kwale County. I am interested in solar power water pumps, please give the number of the company that deals in them.

EDITOR: Please reach Sun Culture, who sell the pumps, on 070032002

POULTRY FARMER

I need to get in touch with Juliana Langat, the chicken farmer in Bomet County. Please pass me her contacts.

EDITOR: Langat is available on 0720051793.

I MAKE ONE-YEAR FEEDS FOR MY COWS

It's amazing to know with the kind of weather in Matuu, Mburu is still capable of keeping pure breeds of Friesian dairy cows. I would like you to assist me with his contacts, so that I can book a visit.

Dan Obat

I am following up on the story of Mburu, the dairy farmer who preserves silage in bunkers. Please give me the details of how to construct a bunker, the ideal dimensions and how to preserve the silage.

Peter Kamere

I need Mburu's contact, the dairy farmer. I want to talk to him and also visit his farm. It looks interesting.

John Sitati

EDITOR: Please reach Mburu on 0712042563.

TREE FARMER

My name is Amos and I would wish to have the contacts of the farmer Humphrey Njoroge, who grows trees and keeps dairy cows.

EDITOR: The farmer is available on 0722846096.

SOIL TESTS

Please assist me with contacts for Francesca Munyi, who repairs soils in Kirinyaga/Sagana.

Wahome

EDITOR: Please reach Munyi on 0727690370.



FERTILISER» RABBIT URINE HAS PLENTY OF NITROGEN



Small animals with five yields, big cash

Fur, skin, meat, manure and urine are among things Rono and other farmers are getting from rabbits

BY SEEDS OF GOLD TEAM
satnation@ke.nationmedia.com

Some years ago, rabbit keeping was a children's activity, with many keeping the animals as pets.

However, with most people embracing rabbit meat and more opportunities arising from the animal's by-products, farmers are now making good money from rabbits.

Stanley Rono is one such a farmer. For many years, he was struggling with maize at his semi-arid home in Siongoroi, Bomet until he heard of rabbit urine fertiliser.

Still undecided on when to start keeping rabbits, Kenya Com Rabbit Consortium Ltd (KCRC), which makes the fertiliser, set up a small factory near his home.

"I did not need any more convincing that I should start keeping rabbits. I knew I would get money from the animal's meat, fur, manure and urine," says Rono, who bought his first brood of 40 rabbits in December last year from a neighbour at Sh200 each.

"To start selling urine, one needs at least 20 rabbits. I had the numbers since my rabbits had multiplied in the previous months to 100."

He has a simple hutch made of timber and wire mesh where he keeps 130 rabbits that produce up to 15 litres of urine daily.

He feeds them Black Jack and Pig Weed (*Amaranthus*). "When I feed them on grass, they produce less urine. Black

Jack and Pig Weed are the best."

Since he started, he has supplied over 1,000 litres to the company.

He also sells each rabbit at Sh800 each to farmers and hotels. The last time he sold in June he earned over Sh50,000. Robinson Runyenje, the director of KCRC, says they picked on rabbits because they are easy to keep and to encourage farmers to use the organic urine fertiliser for planting.

"The fertiliser is made from a mixture of the rabbit urine and compost manure made from cow dung, wood ash, and foliage from plants. The mixture is put in a special digester and what comes out is an organic fertiliser called Rabbit Urine Extra."

Rabbit Urine Extra contains nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium as well as several

THE BUNNIES REPRODUCE VERY FAST THUS MULTIPLYING ONE'S STOCK IS EASY"

Evans Kiplagat



Stanley Rono in his rabbit farm in Bomet.
ANDREW MIBEI | NATION

macro-nutrients that are important in keeping plants healthy," Runyenje says.

The company's coordinator in Bomet, Moses Langat, says they have registered more than 600 members who currently have over 17,000 rabbits.

"Some farmers will get over Sh100,000 each. We buy at Sh100 per litre of urine from farmers."

To tap rabbit's urine, a hutch is constructed in such a way that the urine seeps through the wire mesh into corrugated plastic sheets, to the gutter and finally into a bucket.

"It takes three to four rabbits to collect a litre of urine per day," says Agnes Sorim, the co-ordinating director of KCRC.

She adds the fertiliser can be used as an insecticide in both vegetables and maize farms. The urine should be mixed with water in the ratio of 200ml to 20 litres. This is able to spray an acre of land.

The liquid fertiliser, which is sold at Sh650 per litre, is produced through an organic process that takes one-and-a-half months.

To get high quality fertiliser, farmers are advised to feed their animals with dry matter, which also helps in fattening them.

Evans Kiplagat, a livestock production officer, encourages farmers to get into rabbit rearing.

"The bunnies reproduce very fast thus multiplying one's stock is easy. One then gets fur, skin, meat and urine. Not many animals offer such high returns."

A Kenya Agricultural Research Institute study shows that rabbit urine is a concentrated liquid manure rich in macronutrients for plants and soil.

Reports by Andrew Mibe, Magdaline Wanja and Caroline Chebet

interview

PRODUCTION» COST OF LABOUR IN KENYA IS LOW, WHICH MAKES COUNTRY IDEAL FOR COMMERCIAL FARMING

How farmers can take Kenya to first-world

The wettest part of Israel is drier than Kenya's driest areas yet the country is a net exporter of food and horticulture. Israel Ambassador Gil Haskel shared with Francis Mureithi the secrets Kenyan farmers can adapt to change their lives.

Q: Israel is a net exporter of food and horticulture, yet a good part of it is dry. What is it that Kenya is not doing right?

They say necessity is the mother of all inventions. Israel has invented and is still in-

novating technologies of how to grow more with less (more yield with less resources), through drip technologies, smart greenhouses and so on.

The idea is to widely implement these technologies, even though they might initially seem costly and complex, but in time pay themselves back.

Kenya should import these technologies, which are cheap, and spread them, with country wide extension services to assist and train farmers. Only a nationwide, government supported, professional network will turn agriculture in this country around and elevate it to its correct position.

You are also big on fish farming. What can Kenya learn from it?

We have fish ponds in deserts, which to many Kenyans might sound strange. Fish needs good quality water, feeds and a systematic

method of breeding. To make sure we have quality fish, we even cover the fish pond with shades.

We do breeds such as ornamental fish, cold water fish, tropical fish and water lilies that are exported to Europe fetching good money.

What is Israel's biggest challenge in agriculture today?

Initially, the biggest challenge was how to transform the desert country into an agricultural country. That headache we have solved, but the current challenge Israel is facing is how its products can compete in the world market considering that labour costs are very high and the price of land is also escalating. In Israel, unskilled farm labourer is paid Sh87,000 (\$1,000) per month while a skilled labourer is paid Sh870,000 (\$10,000). That is why when you produce an apple in Israel, it is difficult to compete with the prices of an apple that is grown in China.

So how has Israel tackled this problem?

Our farmers, through advanced technology, have increased efficiency such that from one acre they are able to double their produce through irrigation and proper use of fertiliser. This is why a trader in Europe would still prefer to

buy an apple from Israel because of its high quality.

What programmes does Israel have for Kenya's small-holder farmers?

Our Agency for International Cooperation initiates and implements development cooperation programmes, through which Kenya's smallholder farmers can benefit from our expertise and technologies that have assisted Israel in its path to development. They can also benefit from training in Israel on site and long-term demonstration projects.

The Israeli experts can also train farmers in Kenya on invitation on specific topics such as water management, agribusiness, vegetable production, dairy, aquaculture, horticulture, bee keeping, pest management and post-harvest management of crops.

What agricultural technologies can Kenya borrow from Israel?

GOVERNMENT SUPPORT WILL TURN AGRICULTURE IN THIS COUNTRY AROUND" Haskel

The irrigation technology we have is undoubtedly one of the best in the world. This is one area Kenya should take advantage of and partner with Israel fully because a large part of the land in Kenya is still virgin with quality soils. This if well-developed can turn the country into a developed economy.

Israel is ready to bring its technology to Kenya and I would like to see it happening now that President Uhuru Kenyatta has declared Galana Irrigation Scheme one of the flagship projects of his administration. However, this would only be achieved if such an ambitious project is managed efficiently.

What specific measures has Israel taken to promote agriculture in Kenya?

We have exposed and trained thousands of Kenyans in the field of irrigation, water management and currently we have more than 100 Israeli experts in agriculture in Kenya. Israeli companies are working hard to change the mindset of Kenyan farmers so that they do not rely on rains while they could utilise the rainfall by having water tanks, reservoirs and still practice drip irrigation and enjoy good returns.



EGERTON UNIVERSITY



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Egerton University has responded to access to higher education by establishing a Campus in Kabarnet, the headquarters of Baringo County. The campus is located 140 Km from Nakuru Town, in Kabarnet CBD, one (1) km along Kabarnet-Kabartojo road opposite Kabarnet Hotel.

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- More programmes coming soon in the Faculties of Science; Agriculture, and Environment and Resource Development. Egerton University currently offers 20 Diplomas, 68 Bachelors, 5 Postgraduate Diplomas, 70 Masters and 49 Doctorates in its nine (9) Faculties. School – Based Programmes in Education Continue to be offered in Moi Teachers Training College, Baringo.

For more Information contact:

The Director

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Email: baringocampus@gmail.com or bck@egerton.ac.ke

Website: www.egerton.ac.ke

enterprise

GETTING STARTED» DO A SOIL ANALYSIS AND WATER TESTING SO THAT YOU KNOW WHAT CROP IS GOOD FOR YOUR FARM

From computers to greenhouses

Maingi, a computer forensics and cyber crime graduate, has found his calling in farming and he is creating jobs

BY NJOKI CHEGE

satnation@ke.nationmedia.com
@njokichege

When Seeds of Gold meets John Maingi, he is ecstatic. He had earlier spoken to a high-profile client he had been introduced to and there were prospects he was going to offer him a job. The client was a former government official who owns 10 acres in western Kenya. He was consulting Maingi on the best crop to plant this season.

And he had another sweet deal for him. He wanted Maingi to manage the farm. Maingi arranged to visit the farm in a week's time for a survey before he could advise him on the way forward.

"Today is a busy day for me," says Maingi as we settle down for an interview. That morning, he had spent some time in a five-acre farm in Kiserian where he is overseeing the installation of a full drip irrigation system for one of his clients, Kevin Salaash, 25.

"The system will be up in a week's time, after which I will help him plant watermelons and later manage the farm."

At 24, Maingi is the director of Food Africa Enterprise Limited, an agricultural company that offers services such as setting up of greenhouses, installation of drip irrigation systems, dam liners, fish ponds and soil and water sampling.

His love for farming began five years ago when he was a first year student at United States International University. What began as a side hustle to earn him some pocket money has crystallised into a full-blown business. When he started, farming was something he could do, but now, farming is the only thing he wants to do.

"I was watching a programme on CNN about young farmers in India. The young people had started small and were doing very well. Some of them were my age. Then I was 19. Their experiences jolted me. I soon after started to



Food Africa Enterprise Limited director John Maingi (left) in his farm in Kahawa Sukari, Nairobi with a friend Bob Martin Kinyua. ANTONY OMUYA |

research on greenhouse farming," says Maingi.

His parents, equally passionate about farming, were happy to support their son.

"I convinced my mother, my elder sister and brother to come on board. With a capital of Sh350,000, we set up two greenhouses measuring 30m by 100m in our compound at Kahawa Sukari, Nairobi and bought seedlings. At first, it was trial and error as we started with farming capsicum."

The trial worked. They harvested five tonnes of capsicum and sold the produce to two companies, Fresh n Juici and Veg Pro, getting a profit of Sh500,000. Maingi did not need further convincing that farming is the "next big thing".

He set up his company in 2010, but he did not start with offering drip irrigation system services. He started with supplying food to restaurants and hotels around Nairobi. This opened his eyes to an untapped market of agricultural consultancy.

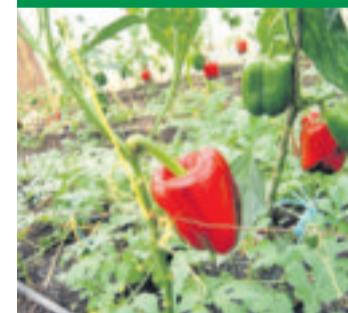
"I realised that greenhouses are expensive to set up for the common farmer because they could not afford the Sh300,000 on average companies are charging. I thought of introducing a cheaper option. I partnered with a Turkish company, Vatan Plastic Istanbul, to provide farmers with cheaper polythene to set up greenhouses," says Maingi, who searched the Turkish company online but met them for the first time in an expo last year.

The deal saw him start importing plastic materials from Turkey to make greenhouses for farmers at a cheaper price. To install a 5m by 10m greenhouse, he charges Sh95,000.

Having found market for the greenhouses, Maingi set to

GROWING CROPS ALL-YEAR ROUND

- To harvest all-year in greenhouses, you have to grow different crops.
- Greenhouses help in controlling pests, which thus guarantees high yields.
- Ensure you use the highest quality seeds and technology like drip irrigation to get higher yields and quality crops.



expand his business. His next frontier was learning how to set up drip irrigation systems that many small-scale farmers avoid because they are deemed expensive.

"Drip kit system is great for open field farming because it reduces the cost of labour significantly. Farmers stand higher chances of getting better yields from the irrigation," explains Maingi, who got most of his knowledge by consulting experienced farmers, reading farming books and researching online. Drip irrigation costs Sh65,000 for an eighth of an acre.

Maingi says that a lot of farmers get into farming without con-

sulting an expert on the basics such as what crop to grow and how to go about it.

"Before we start any project, the first step is to do a soil analysis and the second is water testing so that if there are any pests, they are killed before we start farming. If the soil lacks nutrients, we also know what to do to correct this," he says.

"We don't allow farmers to grow anything. We advise them on what grows best, at what time of the year and what fetches good prices."

In the event that a farmer decides to farm in an area that does not have a constant supply of water, Maingi normally advises them to construct a dam.

"It is important to dig and set up a dam using dam liners, which are made from block polythene," he says.

With an income of Sh500,000 per month, the computer forensics and cybercrime graduate has found his calling in farming and he is creating jobs.

"Many people who take up farming have made it their side-hustle alongside their busy careers. In most cases they are holed up in offices chasing their careers and they hardly have time to check on their farms as often as they would wish. Consequently, their farms are neglected and the return on investment becomes dismal."

Maingi notes that such farmers need a manager who will check on the farm constantly and give a detailed report on the progress.

"We have ground agents who are agronomists who visit clients' farms three or four times a month and give reports. Technology is the next frontier in farming and we have developed a mobile app that makes it easier for farmers to track their crops through

photos sent from their farms in real-time," he says.

Maingi has employed 19 workers, including 15 groundsmen, two technicians who survey farms and give recommendations as well as finance and marketing staff.

"When we get big jobs, the number gets higher because we sub-contract a lot."

When business is good, Maingi sets up about 12 greenhouses in a month, two fish ponds and a dam in a week.

Maingi, who sharpens his agronomy skills by attending training sponsored by seed companies, also trains farmers on food safety, Good Agricultural Practice (GAP) regulations and basic agronomy. A week before the interview, he had attended training on soil and water sampling hosted by a company known as Crop Nutrition in Nairobi.

"It is important for any serious farmer to know about the GAP safety regulations especially if they want to target the export market."

His clientele ranges from small-scale farmers who want to set up greenhouses in the compounds to women's groups (chamas) and large-scale farmers.

"There are many opportunities in farming; you do not have to start big. Start at your parents' kitchen garden. Once you produce something, you will see the benefits. A farmer will never sleep hungry. If for instance I am broke today, I will harvest capsicums, sell them and get money to buy food," he says.

So, shall he one day return to computer forensics?

"Not to fight cybercriminals. I will only go back to computers to figure out how we can use them to farm."

65

The amount of money in thousands Maingi charges for a drip irrigation system for an eighth of an acre



Food Africa Enterprise Limited director John Maingi at his farm in Nairobi. ANTONY OMUYA | NATION

NUTRITION» PROTEIN SOURCES INCLUDE COTTON AND SUNFLOWER, WHICH ENRICH MAIZE, NAPIER AND LUCERNE

Where dairy cows live on the fast lane

At Technology Farm, cows are bathed once a week, hooves are trimmed, they sleep on mattresses and have a maternity wing

BY WANJIRU MACHARIA
satnation@ke.nationmedia.com

Many travellers on the Nakuru-Njoro Road marvel at the black and white cows because they are spotlessly clean and have huge udders sagging with milk.

This is Technology Farm, where cows live on the fast lane, eating the "finest" feeds in life and getting the best treatment.

Technology Farm, which is managed by Rift Valley Development-Registered Trustees, has close to 1,000 Holstein Friesian pedigree cows.

David Cheruiyot, the manager of Technology Group of Farms, says all cows in the farm are divided into groups depending on their production and reproduction stages.

This is well-documented and is registered with the Kenya Stud Book.

The expectant cows are the most pampered. They are separated from the main herd two months to delivery and placed into what is dubbed as the Maternity Wing.

Here, they are watched round the clock and treated to specially prepared, highly

nutritious feed rations in preparation for calving and milk production.

Then there are the milk producing cows, which are equally treated well to maintain high production.

The 2,700-acre farm has a Sh20 million milking parlour, complete with a 15,000-litre cooling tank.

The last categories are the less producing cows and calves, which also have their own sheds.

"We are a free range farm because we have a vast land although we are now introducing zero grazing. The cows graze in open fields in the farm and at the Rift Valley Institute of Science and Technology (RVIST), which is our sister institution."

So, besides the separation of the animals, how does the farm keep them happy?

"The cows are bathed at least once a week, their hooves are trimmed regularly while those on a pilot zero-grazing

project have bedding," says Cheruiyot.

"There is no need to bathe the animals daily since they are free range and they always have clean grounds to rest on."

The animals are fed on commercial dairy feeds, which are supplemented by silage and fodder.

"Friesians are great feeders. We cannot sustain them on dairy meal only. We grow maize and sorghum from which we make silage," says Cheruiyot, adding that the farm has a storage of 3,000 tonnes of silage, which can sustain them for a year.

This excludes hay and other fodder crops on the farm.

"The cows feed according to their production capacity. For the elite group, which produce 50 litres of milk a day, we give them Total Mixed Ration (TMR). This comprises of silage, hay, lucern, minerals and dairy feeds."

The cows in the maternity wing are also fed on TMR, although they reduce the amounts of protein in their portions to prevent them from gaining a lot of weight.

"We do not shave our cows because we have to maintain their beautiful colour, but we polish them once in a while," adds Cheruiyot.

The farm does not encourage keeping of bulls as well as male calves. They are sold, some after a week and others after three weeks, for breeding and beef purposes.

"We dispose bull calves at an early age after we ensure they have had enough colostrum to sustain their immunity. At one week, they are sold at Sh5,000.

MORE ABOUT THE MODEL FARM WHERE QUALITY IS KEY DRIVER

The farm was started in 1973 together with the Rift Valley Institute of Science and Technology with the aim of easing communities' access to agricultural technology and better livestock breeds.

Proceeds are used to develop sister institution, Rift Valley Institute of Science and Technology.

Cows in their sleeping sheds. The mattress is to make them comfortable when resting. SULEIMAN MBATIAH | NATION



Farmers who want to use them for breeding buy them at three months at between Sh13,000 to Sh15,000."

Those bulls that are not sold are castrated and kept as steers for meat.

However, Cheruiyot quickly adds that keeping steers in a dairy farm is discouraged because it is uneconomical. On the other hand, heifers are sold at Sh150,000. A mature steer goes at Sh80,000.

"We sell our milk to processing factories at between Sh28 and Sh35 per litre. We produce more than 5,000 litres daily. Most cows produce an average of 25 litres daily."

The farm sells about 80 in-calf heifers a year while the demand is close to 1,000. The waiting list for this year alone is now at 658.

"In 2013, we had an order for 900 in-calf heifers and this year we are selling across the borders as Tanzanian government has placed an order for 100 cows."

Because of the high demand, the farm is working with the East African Agricultural Productivity Programme to use sexed semen to improve availability of high-yielding cows.

"We also have another farm called

Deloraine Estates where we breed cross Ayrshire cows with the hardy and disease-resistance Sahiwal breed," he says. Their main challenge is to get protein sources for their cattle feeds and the fluctuating milk prices.

"Protein sources are cotton and sunflower cakes, which are expensive. A kilo of cotton cake sells at between Sh65 and Sh70 with sunflower going at Sh30."

Milk prices change with seasons and supply. Sometimes they dip to as low as Sh19 per litre while the production cost stands at Sh30.

The two farms, together with RVIST, have exposed students to both theoretical and practical skills on animal husbandry.

The facility has partnered with local universities where students undertaking animal husbandry courses go for their attachment.

Cheruiyot urges Kenyans to embrace dairy farming saying it is possible to rear a dairy cow on a small portion of land through zero grazing.

He adds that farmers can enrich homemade feeds using maize, sorghum and lucerne thereby enhancing the nutritive value of feeds.

50

The amount of milk in litres some cows at the farm produce each day.

WHY GROOMING IS IMPORTANT FOR COWS

Jackson Wanyonyi, a farm supervisor at Egerton University, says it is important to bathe cows.

Though it is not a common practice among many farmers, Wanyonyi says grooming cows is as important as keeping them healthy.

At Egerton University farm, there is a grooming machine

designed to trim fur, especially when going for an exhibition.

"They are then washed with water and bar soap using a recycled piece of gunny bag or a scrubber," says Wanyonyi. Besides giving cows a better look, Wanyonyi observes washing cows keeps them happier, healthier and more productive.

However, like human beings, cows fear water, especially during the cold weather. "I am sure the weather is not friendly and she is also feeling cold," quipped Wanyonyi as he supervised the bathing of Mazda, a heifer, at the Rift Valley Institute of Science and Technology Agricultural Expo last week.

- Rachel Kibui



horticulture

HASS AVOCADO» THE HIGH-YIELDING VARIETY IS OVAL SHAPED AND HAS DARK GREEN TO PURPLE-BLACK COLOUR

Brighter prospects for avocado farmers

The fruit is set to become the next big earner as counties invest in processing factories and the export market expands

BY DAVE OPIYO

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Wilson Ombongi looks at his lush green farm located on a hill at Riomoro in Kisii County with pride.

The one-and-a-half acre is flourishing with beans and potatoes. This is not what is putting a smile on his face, though. He has at least 200 avocado trees, which he is expecting to harvest the



Vicky Nyaboke, a farmer in Kisii. She has planted 260 grafted avocado trees.
DENNISH OCHIENG | NATION

fruits in a few months' time.

As he takes *Seeds of Gold* round his farm, clad in a red hat and a bluish overcoat and black trousers, he is optimistic that he made the right decision to plant the fruit.

His optimism stems from the fact that the Kisii County government is in the process of setting up an avocado processing factory, which will require farmers like Ombongi to supply it with the fruits.

The plan was revealed recently by Governor James Ongwae, who said a Turkish investor will put up a Sh300 million avocado processing factory in Kisii town.

Trial runs have been completed and full-scale processing is set to begin. "We have registered farmers to be contracted to deliver the produce. The venture will create more than 600 direct and indirect jobs for our people," said Ongwae.

It is expected that the factory will process up to 80 tonnes of avocado daily. Presently, the area produces about 80 tonnes of avocado each day, which is sold to hawkers and middlemen who export them to markets in South Africa.

"The factory will save farmers' from exploitation by middlemen who buy the commodity at a cheaper price. It will produce juice, cooking oil and syrup extracts," Ongwae said.

Ombongi, who also keeps cattle on his farm, says he started planting avocado trees in 2010, following a visit by officials from Export Promotion Council, who convinced him and other farmers to try it out, promising good returns.

"At first it did not work for me. Some of the seedlings I planted dried but I did not give up. I am eagerly waiting for my first major harvest. I am yet to sell the avocados to a major buyer but I know for sure that the returns will be great."

On his farm is a new variety

Maina Karuiru tends to his avocado trees at Kiarithaini village in Mathira. FILE | NATION



known as the Golden Hass, which produces all-year round. Hass Avocados are oval shaped, with a small to medium sized seed. They have a creamy texture and great taste. They also have a distinctive skin that turns from green to purplish-black when ripe.

Cyrus Nyakundi, another farmer, equates planting this variety "to a life time investment".

"One avocado tree, after three years, is capable of giving you Sh70,000 annually. If you plant at least 280 avocado trees on your one-acre farm, you can make a cool Sh19.6 million annually."

It is also very nutritious, he says. "It has at least 13 minerals. The fruit has 32 per cent oil content as compared to the local ones that have between two and eight per cent."

Before venturing into the trade, Nyakundi used to work for a horticultural firm in Nairobi where they would deliver seedlings of various plants to prominent individuals.

"I asked myself what these powerful people get from farming. It was only later that I learnt that horticultural crops had money. So I fully ventured into the trade."

He is now not only a proud owner of an avocado farm at Magena having 260 trees, but also has a nursery where seedlings are grown and distributed to farmers in parts of Nyanza, Rift Valley, Western as well as Central provinces. The nursery was set up with the help of USAid.

"Avocado seeds are first treated before they are planted. This is to ensure that they don't get diseases like drips or scales."

GETTING THE BEST FROM THE FRUIT

- Avocado seedlings should be planted during the rainy season for better growth.
- The spacing between the trees should be seven by seven metres.
- If the trees are not well-spaced, the canopy will overlap and yields will fail.
- During planting, the holes should be filled with about 5kg of manure.

We also sterilise the soil in which we transplant the seedlings. Farmers can purchase them at a cost of Sh100 per seedling."

"During weekdays, we have at least 20 people coming to our nursery to help us plant the seeds. We have given them a target of about 700 seedlings a day," says the farmer, who has at least 270,000 seedlings through his firm Agro Plant Technology Nursery.

Irrigation

Yes, hard water is good for farming but care must be taken

MANY FARMERS abandon drilled borehole water when it turns out to be salty or "hard". Hard water has a combined concentration of calcium and magnesium ions, which occur when there are high levels of the minerals. Water is considered hard if the concentration is in the range of 100 to 150mg for calcium per litre and magnesium 300mg per litre.

Calcium and magnesium ions are the same minerals found in limestone (lime) often recommended for use in raising the pH of acidic soils. The salts can raise the pH (a measure of acidity or alkalinity) of the water causing some elements such as sodium to become unavailable to plants. Furthermore, hardness caused by bicarbonates of calcium or magnesium negatively affects the uptake of water by plants. The amount of magnesium and calcium dissolved increases the level of sodium in the soil particles. This affects the physical structure of the soil in such a way

that it interferes with water uptake. Interference of water uptake will result in poor germination of crops, reduced plant vigour and smaller leaves than normal.

Usefulness of hard water for irrigation will depend on the concentration of the two ions in water. The laboratory confirmation of hardness involves the determination of calcium carbonate contained in water. Confirmation of hardness at the farm level is possible without sophisticated equipment and procedures. Farmers can do this by adding soap to the water. Hard water doesn't lather easily instead forms a white precipitate. The harder the water, the more the soap will be needed to lather (form white bubbles).

Hard water can damage irrigation pipes over time because of the build-up of lime and calcium and eventually leads to clogging. This results to reduced flow or no flow at all. Steel pipes are particularly vulnerable to this problem and it is

always wise to use copper or plastic pipes where there is hard water. Alternatively, clogged pipes can be cleaned by flushing acidic solutions such as vinegar, hydrochloric acid or sulphuric acid in the system for some time. However, acids are dangerous to handle and, therefore, you should seek expert advice before undertaking the measure. Since softening of the water through procedures such as reverse osmosis and other ion exchanges is not a cheaper option, farmers wishing to continue using saline water should employ the two strategies for efficiency of their irrigation systems.

Hard water can be applied in irrigation though depending on the type of soil, crops and drainage. Crops such as spinach, asparagus, tomatoes, broccoli and cabbage can be irrigated with hard water since they are tolerant to salinity. Hard water can also reduce the need to lime acidic soils. The problem may only arise when the soils

become too alkaline. Addition of acidifiers to the soil may help balance this condition enabling normal cultivation of crops. Modification of the irrigation regime in some instances has been shown to improve yields of crops such as corn, melon and potatoes irrigated with saline water. Studies conducted in Israel have shown that saline water can improve the yields of crops such as potatoes, sweet corn and watermelons, among others, by altering the irrigation regimes and selection of tolerant cultivars.

Farmers should avoid crops that have low resistance to salinity such as carrots, onions, strawberries, peas and beans.

- John Nganga and Prof Lenah Nakhone, Department of Crops, Horticulture and Soils. Egerton University (jngash02@gmail.com)

in your own words

BEST PRACTICE» FARMERS SHOULD REAR MONOSEX FISH TO BOOST PRODUCTIVITY

With demand for fish and fingerlings rising in Meru, Kinyua has good source of income

BY MARGARET KINYUA

satnation@ke.nationmedia.com

Meru is known for miraa more than anything else, but there are many farming activities taking place here.

The newest one is fish and I am happy to be among those spearheading fish farming in the region, particularly in Meru South sub-county.

My business entails keeping fish and hatching fingerlings. Thereafter, I sell them to residents for meat and farmers, who are growing in numbers.

I started the business four years ago. Two things made me go into fish farming. One, the government was promoting fish farming, mainly keeping Tilapia; and two, there is a stream that passes through my farm in Kibumbu village, where I get water.

When I first heard about fish farming, I was hesitant to engage in it because I didn't know if I will find market; mainly because people in Meru traditionally do not eat fish, and secondly, I did not have the knowhow.

Besides, I was used to tea and dairy farming, activities that I had been doing for years, but I have now scaled down to concentrate on fish.

However, a visit to the fisheries department in Chuka changed my perception about fish farming.

The officers taught me how to engage in the practice, including building ponds.

I, thereafter, bought fingerlings worth Sh20,000 from Sagana Aquaculture Research Station. Each fingerling was going at Sh20.

In total, I invested Sh45,000. I used Sh15,000 to dig the fishpond and the rest to put in manure to colour water in the pond to protect fish from predators.

My first batch of fish, which I sold in 2011 through the fisheries depart-



Margaret Kinyua in her farm in Meru. CHARLES WANYORO | NATION

I fish Sh45,000 from my pond every three weeks

ment gave me over Sh200,000. This encouraged me.

Later, I also ventured into production of monosex fingerlings for sale.

When you rear monosex fish, you don't mix female and male fish. I have specialised in rearing male fish. Getting male fish is an easy process. First, you put mature male and female fish in the pond and after 21 days, the latter would lay eggs. You then extract eggs from the mouth of the female fish.

This is done by opening the mouth when the fish is facing downwards. You then take the eggs and put them in a container and later in a hatchery. After three days, you put hormones in the feeds that ensure the eggs hatch

into male fish. I get the hormones from Chuka Fisheries Department.

People prefer male tilapia because it matures faster - in eight months. At this age, they have attained at least half a kilo and you can sell in bulk. When they are mixed with female, they breed and this interferes with their weight and size. Mixing the breeds also brings competition for feeds.

I learnt all this information at the Sagana Aquaculture Research Station in Kirinyaga County. I usually attend field workshops there and get professional information regarding fish.

As in other farming ventures, you can only succeed in fish farming if you work with experts.

With the male fish, you must feed them enough food to keep on growing and attain good weight. They grow fast because they are not breeding.

The fish takes eight months to mature. A kilo goes at Sh350. Most of the time I hatch 3,000 fingerlings after three weeks, which give me good money. I spent about Sh30,000 on the fingerlings and sell each at Sh15.

My take is that fish farming is lucrative. I have put my fish ponds on a quarter acre but I get more money from the venture than what I make from tea, which is on more than an acre.

I also engage in poultry and dairy farming.

The main challenge with fish is feeds. Getting pellets is a problem since a 20kg bag goes for about Sh3,500. Sometimes I buy dairy meal and mix it with fish meal.

I plan to buy machines to make my own feeds using sunflower and other ingredients that we have been taught by specialists.

We sell the fish locally since the residents now eat the delicacy. Chuka Fisheries Department assists us a lot. They have a deep freezer where we store our fish and they help us in distribution.

We are happy that there is a firm called Mt Kenya Fish Company that intends to give us feeds and other inputs and then recover it after we harvest.

The company is setting up a fish factory with a capacity to process over 20,000kg per day. It is in Tunyai, Tharaka South sub-county.

Are you engaging in any agribusiness? Tell us how you started, where you sell your produce, challenges, and lessons you have learnt. Send us your story in 700 words to satnation@ke.nationmedia.com. Please include your telephone number.

Grains

County, firm step up war on maize disease

FARMERS IN Kisii County have been asked to skip a whole season of maize planting and embrace alternative crops if they are to avert the spread of a deadly disease.

The disease known as Maize Lethal Necrosis Disease (MLND), is suspected to have started in parts of the Rift Valley and spread to the county leading to the loss of entire crops, especially in Borabu.

Farmers have also been urged to consider growing rice, wheat, sorghum and millet.

These crops, according to Kisii County Executive Member in charge of Agriculture Vincent Sagwe, will avert hunger and still be enough to give them means of sustenance.

He added that the alternative crops could meet the dietary needs of the people.

"These alternative crops are highly nutritious. Some of them also give higher yields than maize in the same square area."

He added the county has already started experimenting on highland rice and wheat.

"All that remains is for us to replicate them on large scale. They are better-yielding than maize and can be alternative staple," Sagwe said. To contain the maize disease, farmers are advised to uproot affected plants.

Sagwe spoke as leading seeds' firm Monsanto announced a new maize variety for high altitude zones, which it said is high-yielding, early maturing and tolerant to a variety of diseases.

The variety KH600-22A takes five to six months to mature and can produce 62 to 65 bags of maize on an acre, according to Monsanto's Mount Kenya Region Sales Manager Peter Kiburi.

But to achieve the yield, farmers are encouraged to have a spacing of one foot by two-and-a-half between the rows and use manure and fertiliser.

The maize variety was introduced to farmers in tea growing zones in Nyeri County during the annual farmers field day at Wambugu Agricultural Training Centre last weekend.

- Brian Moseti and James Ngunjiri



Monsanto's manager Peter Kiburi with the KH600-22A maize variety in Nyeri.

JAMES NGUNJIRI | NATION

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Margaret Kinyua in her farm in Meru. CHARLES WANYORO | NATION

innovation

STORAGE» THE SILO MUST BE PLACED AT LEAST ONE METRE HIGH FROM THE GROUND TO PREVENT RUSTING

We've defeated Osama with simple silos

The silo ensures the level of oxygen within the tank is not more than 10 per cent, thus preventing weevils and other deadly pests

BY RACHEL KIBUI

satnation@ke.nationmedia.com

The name Osama normally sends shivers down the spines of many cereals farmers. But it is not Osama bin Laden, the terrorism kingpin killed in Pakistan in 2011.

For the farmers across the country, Osama refers to a deadly weevil that can decimate thousands of bags of maize or beans in a short period.

They nicknamed the weevil known as Larger Grain Borer Osama because of its harmful effects.

Farmers in Wanyororo, Bahati sub-county, Nakuru are among the worst hit by the weevil. Osama started terrorising them about three years ago. To avoid losses, they would sell their produce soon after harvesting.

But that is all in the past. Today, the farmers have found a new gadget that enables them to conserve their maize and beans without even adding pesticides.

The gadget dubbed Metal Silo is cylindrical and was designed by Catholic Diocese of Nakuru (CDN).

"It enables farmers to store their maize as long as they wish after harvesting. They can, therefore, not worry about weevils, rats and other destructive pests," said John Muraya, agricultural programmes officer with CDN.

The farmers buy the metal silo, which costs Sh18,000, in groups.

"We first started with each farmer contributing Sh3,000 for registration with CDN. One must be in a group of at least 10 farmers. Those are CDN conditions," said Florence Kamonjo, a member of Karucua Farmers Group, whose home is being used as a demonstration centre to showcase the effectiveness of the storage method.

Thereafter, each of them paid Sh1,250 for 12 months to have completed the total cost of Sh18,000 at which point CDN sells the silo. However, one can pay in cash at once.

When the Seeds of Gold team visited her home, Kamonjo was happy, with her maize having remained clean, uninfected and with no chemicals.

"The metal silo ensures there is no oxygen or moisture in it to avoid decomposition of maize, which leads to pests," explained Muraya.

To use the gadget, one puts the grains inside. One then places a lit candle in the silo and covers the lid.



PEST ORIGINATED FROM AMERICA

- According to BioNET-EAF-RINET, the Larger Grain Borer (*Prostephanus truncatus* horn) surfaced in East Africa in 1980s.
- The pest is native to Central America, tropical South America, and the extreme south of the USA.
- The pest's larva is white, fleshy and has a sparse covering of hairs.
- It destroys wheat, maize, beans and cassava.

Immediately all oxygen burns, the candle goes off.

Farmers fetch the produce from the gadget that should be placed on a raised platform from an outlet at the base.

Maize, according to Muraya, is supposed to have not more than 13 per cent moisture content before being put in the silo.

The officer says the metal silos have great advantages. "They take up very small space compared to gunny bags. The silos occupy a space that can accommodate two bags of maize, yet store maize that fits in 10 bags," said Muraya.

Farmers growing other cereals like rice and wheat can also use the method of preservation to not only curb post-harvest losses, but also ensure convenience and save space.

Since CDN came up with the technology in December last year, they



A farmer removes maize from the silo in Nakuru .
PHOTO | CHEBET CAROLINE



An agricultural officer with the metal silo, which is used to store grains by small-scale farmers in Nakuru.
PHOTO | CHEBET CAROLINE

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new frontier

HABITAT» CRICKETS LIVE IN THE SOIL AND HIDE UNDER DEAD PLANTS BUT THEY ARE NOW BEING DOMESTICATED

New on plate: Biscuits made from crickets

Prof Ayieko has done research on edible insects and she is now producing biscuits and sausages from them

BY EVERLINE OKEWO

satnation@ke.nationmedia.com

P

rof Monica Ayieko sits calmly in her office at Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology (JOOST) in Siaya County waiting for her next lecture.

She keeps on checking her watch as she answers questions from *Seeds of Gold*, relating to her love for insects.

Her area of specialisation is edible insects, specifically termites and crickets, and for the past 13 years, she has been doing research on them and others with an aim of increasing food production.

"People are becoming cautious about animal protein, that is why we scientists are shifting focus to insect-rearing to provide alternative source of proteins," says the professor of Consumer Economics, Department of Food Security.

Prof Ayieko has done research on production of termites, lake flies, locusts and black ants. Her recent research is on cricket-rearing, which she says has a sustainable production.

Crickets are brownish black insects. They have round heads, long and thin antennae and their wings turn down on the sides of their bodies. They live in the soil and hide under dead plants and bushes.

She started the project in 2012 after a thorough research that included their nutritional components and

value addition aspects.

According to the lecturer, crickets, which have been proved to contain a concentrated protein, can be processed into muffins, biscuits, sausages, meat loafs, porridge and chapati.

With her undergraduate students, Prof Ayieko says she went to a bush near the university in search of crickets.

"We trapped 30 crickets after a three-hour expedition," she says. They then put the crickets in a glass cage to observe their behaviour.

"After putting a cotton roll moistened with water, we realised that they could survive outside their habitat. The c r i c k -

ets started reproducing small, yellow and cylindrical eggs, which hatched to produce pin heads (baby crickets)," recalls Jackline Oloo, a student researcher.

Prof Ayieko says they harvested 20kg of crickets, which were distributed to farmers in Siaya and Homa Bay counties.

Currently, there are a total of 561 farmers who are rearing crickets in counties in Nyanza. Also on board are some 25 farmers in Bomet, who were recently trained on the same project by the university.

"Our role as the university is to research and disseminate knowledge on how we can improve food security by embracing edible insects."

Following successful research, JOOST through Prof Ayieko received a funding of Sh450,000 from an organisation in Netherlands to expand cricket production.

With the funding, they bought 100ml buckets for farmers to rear the crickets. Each bucket retails at Sh1,200.

The university has put the farmer in groups of 50. Each group rear the crickets, dries them and later uses them to make muffins, biscuits crackers and sausages.

Japheth Alula, a beneficiary of the project, says he now supplements maize farming with crickets to improve his income.

"Crickets reproduce fast. If you keep them in a warm place and provide them with water and vegetables, you are certain of better returns after a week," says Alula.

Every week, he harvests between 15 to 20kg of the insects. A kilo of cricket goes for Sh500 and a petri dish of cricket goes for Sh200.

He sells his products to households, retail shops and supermarkets in Nyanza.

Prof Ayieko, who is cur-



Prof Monica Ayieko with baby crickets at her farm in Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University. Below: Biscuits made from crickets. TOM OTIENO | NATION



margarine and sugar until it becomes creamy. Thereafter cut the dough into small pieces and bake.

The insects can also be fried, crushed and the powder mixed with amaranth flour to increase nutritional value. The flour can be used to make dough for baking.

For sausage, the crickets are pounded and mixed with additives to add flavour. Thereafter, they are mixed with special bread crumbs and then deep fried.

"It takes about three months to harvest crickets, but we are now working on a possibility of reducing that time to eight weeks," says Prof Ayieko.

She has done cricket presentations in Italy, South Africa, Uganda and Tanzania.

When kept under refrigerators, the product's shelf-life can extend to six months.

She is looking forward to processing biscuits for nursery kids since they are healthy for children.

Technology

New tilling machine cuts planting costs by more than half

FARMERS CAN now reduce labour costs incurred during preparation for planting by half, thanks to a new machine.

Strip till equipment or one-way machine is one of the latest concepts in farming currently being used by farmers in Nakuru County.

The technology, which was imported from US for demonstration, is expected to boost farming.

The machine is commonly used in North America and South Africa to improve yields and cut costs.

Early this year, it was used at Rift Valley

Institute of Science and Technology (RVIST) and Kabarak Farm.

Strip till equipment ploughs, harrows and plants at the same time hence saving costs which could have been incurred in all the stages.

According to Joseph Seroney, a farm manager at RVIST, strip till machine is time saving as well as cost-effective.

"We used to harvest 28 to 30 bags per acre but after employing the technology, we harvested 52 bags per acre as well as saving the cost by half," Seroney said.

"Earlier last year, we were still using

conventional methods of farming. The total costs incurred during ploughing, harrowing and planting was Sh26,000 but after applying the machinery, we only used Sh11,000. All a farmer needs is to spray the farm with herbicides to kill the green matter before using the machine."

The machine has disc plates in front to cut weeds. After the disc plates are gadgets to strip the soil as well as apply fertiliser for top dressing. At the back are the planters, which plant seeds as well as apply fertiliser.

- Caroline Chebet

The strip till equipment in Nakuru. CHEBET CAROLINE | NATION



NATIONAL FARMERS' AWARD WINNERS 2013

Kenya will be food secure in the next five years. Whether this is her conviction, pledge, plan or strategy, the Principal Secretary, State Department of Agriculture, Mrs. Sicily Kariuki made this promise in front of an audience that will be watching closely as she embarks on tackling the problem of food scarcity in the country.

She was speaking at the first National Farmers Awards Scheme, in November last year as she dished out

trophies and certificates to 11 winners selected out of tens of thousands of participants.

The event ushered the annual National Farmers Awards, scaled up from the earlier Presidential Farmers' Award Scheme, and is now a Public Private Sector initiative between the Ministry of Agriculture and Elgon Kenya Limited.

This year's awards are now open for applications, which will close on August 31st to pave way for the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries officials to visit shortlisted farms to judge and select winners in seven categories, up from five. Top winners will receive their trophies and certificates at the

President Uhuru Kenyatta rewards Harrison Muriuki of Ruirui Farmers Centre

Nairobi International Trade Faire 2014, from His Excellency, the President as per tradition.

Elgon Kenya Limited has once again sponsored the 2014 Awards under the same principle to stimulate agribusiness. "Farming is no longer business as usual, we want to see agriculture shed the age-old image of an undertaking of the old, uneducated, failures and those with nothing better to do and become a business players can be proud of", says Elgon Kenya Managing Director, Bimal Kantaria.

Mr. Kantaria added that the essence of the award was to showcase successful agribusinesses, and true to form, some of the winners are young and educated.

"There is no reason why we can't produce food and export surplus from Kenya", Mr. Kantaria says. "We have plenty of water, land, technology and hardworking people who only need to be supported with policy and infrastructure", he reiterates. It was this challenge that has prompted Mrs Kariuki to give the assurance that in the coming five years, the Ministry would ensure the country's basket was full.



Agriculture PS Ms Sicily Kariuki rewards DK Jolly Stores limited

Last year, flower firms – Panda Flowers, Nini Limited and plant Propagator Stokman Rozen came first, second and third respectively. The other winners of the inaugural awards were Kalia Farm from Machakos County, in the Smallholder Fully Commercialized Farms category followed by Kyanda Farm in Makueni for the same league. The owner of Kalia Farm, Dr Nelson Nyamu received a trophy and certificate from President Uhuru Kenyatta at last year's Nairobi International Show. Harrison Muriuki of Ruirui Farmers Centre, in Buuri, Meru County won in the Small Scale Agro-dealers category. Number 2 is Blue Agri Supply Services from Nyeri County, and number 3 went to Shamba Input from Njoro, Nakuru County.

In the Small scale Farms Gearing to Commercialization category, Bishop George Mbaya of Meru County was the winner. In the Large Scale Agro Dealers category, number 1 and 2 were awarded to DK Jolly from Nyeri County and Packsons Enterprises Limited from Kericho County respectively.

The two new categories this year are

- Women in Agriculture.
- Youth in Agriculture.

Application Form

NATIONAL FARMERS' AWARD 2014

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2. Small Scale farms fully commercialized
3. Large scale fully commercialized (>Ksh 50m),
4. Large scale Agro input dealers greater than Ksh 5m
5. Small scale farm gearing to commercialization
6. Women in Agriculture.
7. Youth in Agriculture.

2. Level of investment:

3. Resources owned:

- Equipment
- Land/business premises
- Others (specify)

4. Resources Rented/hired:

- Equipment
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- Others (specify)

5. Human resource capacity

- Permanent(men)(women)
- Casual.....Daily.....Monthly

6. ISO standard certified (yes/no).....type of standard if any.

7. Please indicate your performance on the following areas on a scale of 1 to 10:

- Environment care and protection.....
- Climate change mitigation measures
- Waste disposal
- Resource development strategies
- Social responsibilities
- Working environment improvement issues like labour lines, social amenities, conflict arbitration.

8. Your vision.....mission.....

9. Your ability to access market (Choose one 30%, 50%, 75%)

10. Your ability to network with suppliers and distributors (Choose one 30%, 50%, 75%)

11. Ability to use records for planning (Choose one 30%, 50%, 75%).....

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Email: msafiri.mkuu@yahoo.co.uk

EGGS : Looking for steady supply of eggs within Nairobi.
Contact: 0726985975
Email: salesinnovl@gmail.com

BEANS: I am looking for the new bean varieties, Chelalang, Tasha and Ciangui.
Contact: 0725847608
Email: martolace09@yahoo.com

LAND: I am a young man with an interest in conservation agriculture. I am looking for land to lease long term (five years) within a 30km radius of Njoro Town, Nakuru, approximately 30 acres with at least five acres and accessibility to water.
Email: danlou87@gmail.com

SIMSIM SEEDS :We are looking for simsim seeds over 20 tonnes and a regular supply. Please advise availability price and quantity. Either in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania.
Email: info@hetsc.co.ke

TILLER/POWER MACHINE: I want to know if anybody knows where I can buy a tiller/power machine for personal tilling? This machine is good for medium agribusiness people.
Email: kirwokin@icloud.com

RABBITS: We want to purchase 12 rabbits (10 females and two males). Please give price and specify type (local or exotic).
Location: Nasewa, Busia County
Contact: Emmanuel 0727847720 or Collins 0727840397
Email: sbsafrica@gmail.com

GOATS: I am looking for Toggenburg goats. Please state price and how they can be delivered.
Location: Thika
Contact: 0724803940
Email: ndungukagera@gmail.com

KIENEJI EGGS: I am looking for a supplier for fertilised kieneji eggs
Quantity: 250
Location: Murang'a
Contact: Charles 0722303002
Email: githinjic11@gmail.com

SELLERS

WATERMELON: I have four acres full of watermelon. I am looking for potential buyer
Location: Shimba hills, Kwale County
Contact: 0710845788
Email: petero_washa@yahoo.com

ARROW ROOTS : From Meru County
Quantity: As per demand
Price: Sh80 per kilo
Location: Nairobi
Contact: 0721942304
Email: chegematati@ymail.com

GREEN GRAMS AND DRY MAIZE:
Quantity: 1,500 bags (green grams) and 2,000 bags (white maize)
Contact: 0725055887
Email: brightsolutionskenya@gmail.com

GREENHOUSES:
Quantity: As per demand
Location: Nyeri
Contact: 0705922288
Email: kenchirachira@yahoo.com

GREENHOUSES:
Quantity: As per demand
Location: Ruai, Nairobi
Contact: 0726946938
Email: wilsonmuthoka2@gmail.com

INCUBATOR: Fully automatic 96 kienyeji egg capacity incubator. It automatically turns eggs every two hours. Hatch your own chicks every 21 days to grow your poultry business quickly.
Price: Sh26,000
Location: Nairobi
Contact: James, 0717622485.
Email: jameswaiguru@gmail.com

HONEY: Natural pure and refined honey
Quantity: As per order
Location: Aberdares Apiaries, Maragua, Muranga County
Contact: 0770191789
Email: aberdareshoney@gmail.com

INCUBATOR: Automatic chicken egg incubator
Quantity: 100 different sizes
Price: Ranges from Sh25,000 to Sh180,000
Location: Nairobi
Contact: Cyrus 0722519547

KIENEJI CHICKEN:
Quantity: As per demand
Price: Sh700 to Sh1,000
Location: Kitui County
Contact: 0722563672
Email: augustinekitute@gmail.com

LAND: I am selling 1.6 acre agricultural land next to a dam near Machakos town.
Contact: 0770527432

LAND: Three-and-a-half acres available in Red Hill, Kiambu County.
Contact: Charity Mwaura, 0733563722
Email: agricultureleasingkenya@gmail.com

LAND: I have a quarter acre plot at Ruiru, next to Spinners&Spinners, 150m

SELLER: PASSION FRUITS

We sell yellow sweet passion fruits of any amount at Sh100 per kilo.
Dorothy Ndubi 0733279872



SELLERS: CHICKEN

We are selling 600 broiler chicken (1.2-1.5kg). Sh 380- Sh420 per chicken in Gilgil. Contact 0722597090- 0734842849
Email: wmakanga@yahoo.com



from tarmac, ideal for greenhouse and chicken rearing. Water and electricity is available. Cotton soil. I want to lease it.
Contact: 0722932122
Email: Nativegirl. joy@gmail.com

LAND: Three acres piece of land at Joska area, about 4km off Kangundo road for long or short-term lease. The land is generally flat, good for any agricultural activity like poultry, pig keeping and dairy cattle rearing.
Contact: 0727818184
Email: githuephantus@yahoo.com

FRIESIAN HEIFERS: In-calf Friesian Heifers
Quantity: 10
Price: Starting from Sh150,000
Location: Githunguri, Kiambu County
Contact: 0724216178
Email: jmskageche@gmail.com

CHICKEN CAGES:
Quantity: 120 birds
Price: Sh38,000
Location: Ruiru, Kamiti Road
Contact: 0722 286 269, 0722 286 272, 0722 854 191

GREENHOUSES: specially built for the tropical regions, greenhouse crops management, drip irrigation, special irrigation (bananas, coffee, fruits, trees and gardens lawns. **Quantity:** As per demand

Price: Negotiable
Location: Nakuru
Contact: Ngari Mugo 0723834721
Email: okmulgee.engineering@gmail.com

GUM TREES: Mature blue gum trees, eucalyptus grandis species.
Quantity: 300 trees, 10,000 seedlings

Price: Sh1,000 per tree and Sh20 per seedling
Location: Essunza near Mwichio shopping centre, Emuhaya Constituency.
Contact: Charles Butiko 0723119111

PASSION FRUIT SEEDLINGS: Grafted purple passion fruit seedlings
Quantity: As per demand
Location: Eldoret
Contact: 0721235029
Email: cbusienei@yahoo.com

NUTMEG:
Quantity: As per demand
Price: Sh1,200 per kilo
Location: Nairobi
Contact: Ali, 0789347737
Email: francian45@yahoo.com

WATERMELON:
Quantity: Sweetrose. Planted on an acre
Price: Farm gate, Sh30 per kilo

Location: Oluch-Kimira Irrigation Scheme-Homa Bay County
Contact: David 0724527294

PASSION FRUIT SEEDLINGS: Purple passion fruit seedlings. Already sprayed with foliar fertiliser.
Quantity: As per demand
Price: Sh40 per seedling
Location: Kericho
Contact: 0724062800
Email: oliveroliemutai@gmail.com

DUCKS:
Quantity: 20
Price: Sh3,000
Location: Kitengela
Contact: 0719106000
Email: waruingeh@yahoo.com

RABBIT MEAT:
Quantity: As per demand
Price: A kilo @ Sh650
Location: Nairobi
Contact: 0723681558

KUROILER CHICKS:
Quantity: As per demand
Price: Three days old at Sh50 and three weeks old at Sh220
Location: Nairobi
Contact: 0728343327

DAM LINERS: For water storage and agricultural uses.
Quantity: As per demand
Price: Sh200 per metre
Location: Nyeri
Contact: 0704586333/0721355142

YELLOW CAPSICUM
Quantity: Weekly harvest of 100kg
Price: Sh150 per kilo
Location: Ruringu town, Nyeri
Contact: Patrick Nduhiu 0722607152
Email: nduhiup@gmail.com

INCUBATORS: All incubators available at in terms of 50 to 100 pieces.
Price: 36 eggs at Sh20,000, 164 eggs at Sh45,000, 176 eggs at Sh55,000, 328 eggs at Sh65,000, 528 eggs at Sh70,000 and 1,056 eggs at Sh100,000.
Location: South C, Nairobi
Contact: Jimleen, 0722237617 James Gitonga or 0722965010
Email: jimleen2008@yahoo.com

KIENEJI CHICKS:
Quantity: As per demand
Price: Sh130 for one-week-old and Sh150 for two-weeks-old
Location: Rongai
Contact: 0726130418
Email: dunake@gmail.com

KIENEJI CHICKEN
Quantity: As per demand
Location: Kasarani, Nairobi
Contact: 0771 982852

INCUBATORS AND KIENEJI CHICKS:
Quantity: 100 kieneji two months old chicks and auto incubators with a capacity of 264 eggs and a humidity pump.

Location: Gesonso, Kisii County
Contact: George Kirrama, 0728 732 389
Email: georgekirrama@gmail.com

TREES: Trees for sale in Nyandarua
Quantity: As per demand
Price: Negotiable
Contact: Simon 0725694224
Email: simonwathua@gmail.com

BROILER CHICKEN:
Quantity: 200 per month

Price: Sh400
Location: Katito, Sondu
Contact: Erastus Ouma, 0725177356
Email: erastusouma@gmail.com

FARM TRACTOR: MF 240 (Reg. KAC) complete with new two bottom Faima Plow available
Price: Sh800,000 (negotiable).
Location: Fort Ternan, Kericho County
Contact: Roy, 0724377685/ 0736065613
Email: okothroy@gmail.com

CHARCOAL BRIQUETTE MACHINES:
Quantity: Place your order and have it ready in two weeks. 40 per cent deposit on order.
Price: Sh95,000
Location: Eldoret
Contact: Sylvia, 0700187667/ Emily 0722620615
Email: sylviaiwarkanja@gmail.com

DAIRY COWS: Type, Friesians, Holsteins, Ayshires, Guernseys and Fleckvieh
Quantity: Lactating and In-calf producing 20 to 40 litres of milk.
Price: Sh100,000 and above
Location: Kiambu
Contact: 0789628809/0721736200
Email: agrifarmsupplies@gmail.com

COCONUT OIL: Virgin coconut oil
Quantity: As per demand
Location: Mombasa
Contact: 0722806261
Email: polluxservices@gmail.com

SELLER: GOATS
Fully matured goats as per demand at Sh7,000 each in Mwala, Machakos County.
Contact: 0716545388. Email: cmkuthai@mail.com



POMEGRANATES FRUIT SEEDLINGS.
Quantity: 1,000
Price: Sh200
Contact: 0733732851

RABBITS
Quantity: 50
Price: Sh1,000 and Sh1,500 each
Location: Ongata Rongai
Contact: Daniel Gachara. 0722639875

Are you a producer or looking for agricultural produce, inputs and equipment? Tell us on: satnation@ke.nationmedia.com
Editor: No quails, please

INTERVIEW | Dr Farouk Topan on his many years of teaching in Africa and Europe

Topan: The trouble with Kiswahili in EA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

some came up with compositions in Arabic paralleling Shakespeare, saying 'Shall I Compare Thee to Rabbia' (meaning spring).

Did you teach Swahili there?

I didn't teach Kiswahili there but gave papers during staff seminars on the lexical aspects of Kiswahili in relation to Arabic to help them understand that words, when they migrate, don't necessarily carry with them the same meaning as in the other target language as they do in the source language. I was there for two years and left for London to join the Institute of Ismaili Studies. Because of my background in education, I led a group of students in teacher training. If I go back, I introduced the teaching of Swahili Literature in Swahili at the University of Dar es Salaam. Among my students were the late Jay Kitsao and Mohamed Bakari.

And from London did you move elsewhere?

I moved to the SOAS, then to my college till retirement. The SOAS never had the post of the head of Department of African Languages and Cultures before, so I became the first. To me it was just a post. When I left the post, I recommended Dr Akin Oyetade from West Africa. That was a very good symmetry that an East African was succeeded by a West African as Head of Department. I retired in 2006, and the Aga Khan University in London asked me to teach sub-Saharan African traditions at their London Institute since they wanted to expand their curriculum to include Africa. I decided that I won't just teach Swahili but rather devised a course where I taught on the Swahili Coast.

Let's go back to your early research. It is interesting that as you went to school, you always opted to study what I would call 'native knowledge, cultures, traditions, intelligence and legacies' at a time when we were just transiting from colonialism, yet colonialism had imprinted in people a culture of loving that which is not theirs. Are there young East Africans doing what you did; something that you would say you're a pioneer in?

One, I'm proud that I started the Kiswahili literature programme in Dar es Salaam and Nairobi universities because the students who took that became renowned writers — playwrights like Hussein Ibrahim and John Habwe. So that's the academic aspect, something we can be proud of by saying we started that. On the

social aspects, unfortunately, there are no East Africans who're interested in it — the subject of my PhD dissertation — as a worthy subject of study and research. Spirit possession is considered as superstition; there is a negative attitude towards it. That brings forth the colonial aspect that Ngugi talks about in *Decolonising the Mind* because the perspective of what is ours is very much influenced by how much we play to the gallery so that others can recognise us rather than we recognising our ideas. But if you take spirit possession, there are scholars from Europe who have continued it. What comes out from these studies is how people negotiate mentally with others so that we have different spirits from Kilimanjaro, India, and Wazungu.

Do you think that research in Swahili is given the attention it deserves in universities, especially in East Africa?

The study of Swahili should be expanded; not just in terms of language and literature. But even before getting to that stage. Some weeds should be removed because of some misperceptions. We shouldn't be involved in defining who a Mswahili is and who is not. We should expand Swahili to ask: How does Swahili relate to other disciplines — Geography, Social Sciences, etc., so that there is an understanding not only of the vocabulary, but also of the capacity of the language to deal with the other aspects of life; and of the people because Kiswahili started as a language of a particular people but is now the language of millions of people in East Africa.

What does it mean for a language to be a lingua franca for millions of people? Do we simply use it the way we want or should there be an academy that puts boundaries or frameworks on its use? Do we have a group of translators to keep translating books in Swahili? Those are the questions we need to ask rather than going back to the identity issues; we've gone past the stage.

If that's the case, what do you have to say about the fact that there is more research about the material and non-material values of Kiswahili outside Africa than within; there seems to be more scholars outside Africa studying Swahili than in Africa.

I agree with the fact that there are more scholars outside Africa studying Swahili than in Africa, but there are several reasons to that. For instance, economics — so that perhaps pursuing such studies isn't worthwhile in East Africa; it may be seen as not seriously linked to the economic needs and



HEZEKIEL GIKAMBI | NATION

Dr Farouk Topan during a Kiswahili conference at the University of Bayreuth in Germany that was held between June 8-14, 2014.

capabilities of the society. Then the elephant in the room is the fact that English is preferred to Swahili because the former is global and people want to connect more.

Do you see Kiswahili as the language that will actually unite eastern Africa?

I do, as long as there is a sense of national self-interest in the project. As long as Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi, Rwanda and Congo feel they'll be benefiting from this project, they'll put money into it. The other way is the grassroots way where the people are beginning to see the language as that enabling them to communicate with others, then they'll do it as well. And it's also wonderful and nice that people outside here are spending their time and lives researching Kiswahili. We should take off our hats to them because they're doing our work.

Which brings me to the question of cultural nationalism in the 1970s and 1960s. How did politics tramp on culture at

that time, because one expected a very seamless cultural connection in the region so that the universities would drive these yet they were among the first units to fracture. Was there an intellectual act of betrayal of the people?

That's a wonderful phrase. That comes very close. In my perspective, things began to go wrong towards the last days of the fight for independence. There was a huge euphoria about the East African Federation, especially the intellectuals were very excited because we had an infrastructure ready made: Common currency, airline, Customs, postal services, etc. But then, nationalism came in so that it became very much Kenyan, Tanganyikan and Ugandan. But the break came when the currency was changed, the very medium of exchange. The economies were different. Perhaps there is an attempt to redo it now 50 years after it collapsed; we're looking back and saying that was not the right way to do it. We did miss the boat. I would not call it an intellectual betrayal

because it wasn't a deliberate act of rationality.

But one would have imagined that the universities were producing the future bureaucrats, industrialists, thinkers, progressive minds, yet they were the first to separate and reframe themselves within their nations instead of pursuing the broader project of federation.

You must be making an assumption that the university and the intellectuals within them walked together. I don't think so. The intellectuals were very rebellious. The higher echelons of the university management were more powerful than the intellectuals and if they made a decision, the intellectuals would only rebel against it. We need to make this distinction. And there were streaks of rebellions, like in my Department of Literature at the University of Nairobi. Most of us thought we had people looking over our shoulders at that period. There were several strikes but ours were largely ideological. The vice-chancellors were more of an arm of the government than they were part of the intellectual atmosphere of the university. So there was no complicity but rebelling against the decisions. But all these are now water under the bridge because so much has changed and at the bottom of all these change is a feeling of helplessness. We feel we have been put in a situation where we're playing to Europe and USA, on the one hand, and responsible to our people, on the other hand. You feel you've been put in the middle and there are not many resources and avenues for help. Every member of the university is seeking to go to Europe.

There is a situation where a majority of scholars are looking for validation outside their own institutions and societies. What do you say on how we can overcome this?

You've hit it with that word "validation". We feel incomplete until validated from outside and that's the attitude we need to move away from. Mwalimu Julius Nyerere came close to it with his Ujamaa policy, which has unfortunately been misperceived mainly as an economic adventure yet it had an ethical, humanistic aspect.

That ethical side had the notion of human beings as people with dignity. If only Nyerere had focused on that and not tying it with villagisation and other discomforts, Tanzania, and largely East Africa, would have gone very far. But Harambee and Nyayo were mainly just economic, pulling together to make Kenya economically better. My feeling is that if there is any betrayal, it's by the politicians.

The swiftly changing fortunes of Uganda's literary scene

BY KINGWA KAMENCU
kkamencu@ke.nationmedia.com

It is now 50 years since the historic African Writers Conference at Makerere University (legend has it that it is where a young James Ngugi shuffled to Chinua Achebe, handwritten manuscript in hand, and the rest, as they say, became history), and the Ugandan literary scene seems to be waking up from a stupor.

The expulsion of writers and intellectuals in the 1970s and 1980s led to the nascent literary stream to peter

out, water only returning to its dry river banks in the late 1990s and early 2000s with the emergence of the women writers' group, FEMRITE.

Sitting in at the Writivism festival in Kampala between June 18 to 22, was, therefore, a chance to see literary history unravelling, first hand.

Ugandan writers of the past, while notable, never really rose to the same stature of their counterparts such as Kenya's Ngugi wa Thiong'o, Nigeria's Chinua Achebe or Somalia's Nuruddin Farrah. Okot P Bitek, Richard Ntiru, Henry Barlow, John Ruganda,



Jennifer Makumbi



Goretti Kyomuhendo

Robert Serumaga, Austin Bukenya and Peter Nazareth are some of the leading names of the early decades. Barnabas Kasigwa made a name in Kenya for his contribution to the theatre scene.

Transition magazine ran by Rajat Neogy, which published the who-is-who of African intellectuals, and was at one point edited by Wole Soyinka, also traces its home in Uganda.

FEMRITE was to be the group that would turn the tap and allow the waters of a new generation of writers

CONTINUED ON PAGE 34

REFLECTIONS OF A RETIRING SCHOLAR | Thoughts of a man of letters

Of Glasgow city and a rather uncommon Commonwealth

Despite its colonial origin, the Club Games bring together a diverse mix of countries, including some that had no direct link with London in the historical past

BY AUSTIN BUKENYA
satnation@ke.nationmedia.com

The code is "Glasgow 2014". By the time you read this, the 20th Commonwealth Games in that great Scottish city will be moving rapidly to a grand finale, with Kenya probably lifting a huge haul of medals, mostly gold.

To me, however, Glasgow is first and foremost Scotland, and the many sweet memories of an adventurous year I spent there in the early 1970s. I was actually based some 40 miles away from Glasgow, at Stirling, where the first pound sterling was minted.

But Glasgow was the entry to Scotland, and as you landed at Glasgow Airport, what welcomed you was a huge advertising board for Haig. Rather stereotypical of the land, since Haig is a whisky brand and Scotland is best known for its varieties of the delicious cool burning liquor, which the Scots themselves never call "Scotch"!

Anyway, from Glasgow it was a short, quiet train ride to Stirling, through some of those cities, like Falkirk, which you hear of because of their football teams in the Scottish Premier League. Yes, they are real, and I was a fan, mainly of Celtic, a Glasgow club, even before Victor Wanyama and the others went to play there. The home team for our city is Stirling Albion.

But matters football or otherwise sportive were not my priority in Stirling. I was on a work study programme at Stirling University, teaching literature to Scottish students under the supervision of senior professors as part of my training as a young lecturer, newly appointed to a post at Makerere University.

The rigorous training, however, didn't prevent me from enjoying myself thoroughly and having fun in Scotland. I made numerous friends who took me touring over the ruggedly beautiful Scottish landscape.

The Highlands are particularly fascinating, and I marvelled at the majestic Ben Neville Mountain, and the expansive Loch Lomond. But I can't recall now if I sighted Loch Ness, where the famed Monster is supposed to dwell.

"Loch" is the Scottish word for "lake". You know, the Scots have their own language, called



A sculpture known as 'The Big G' is pictured in Glasgow in Scotland, on July 21, 2014, ahead of the start of the 2014 Commonwealth Games.

Gaelic, and many of them learn English as a second language. I used to tell my students that they embarrassed me when they made spelling mistakes in their essays.

But it was all in good humour. In any case, many of my own teachers in Uganda were Scottish, like the kindly James Barry, who taught me how to pronounce, and Richard Bone, who might have planted the feeling in me that you could summarise English Grammar on a postcard.

Yoweri Museveni, too, claims that he had a Scottish English teacher, a Mr Craig, at Ntare School, before he joined us in Dar es Salaam.

“

Kamenju might have been right about the origins of the Commonwealth, but what he missed was the realisation that you can't reduce human motivation to just one interest, whether this be politics, economics or ethnicity”

Prof Austin Bukenya

He even wishes that he could bring him back to help Ugandans improve their English, maybe stop saying strange things like "detooth", "decampaign" and "friends, relatives and in-laws", as if in-laws were neither relatives nor friends.

Or maybe they are not! After all, they can thoroughly detooth you (rip you off) during the marriage negotiations.

Another Scottish educationist, who founded a famous boys' school on the slopes of the Ruwenzoris, had them wear kilts as part of their uniform.

Speaking of kilts, my own best man wore a kilt at my wedding. You know, I tied the knot in Scotland, not with a bonnie Scottish lass, but with my Ugandan Ankole bride. It was a news-making event in the area, probably the first of its kind in the Scottish Midlands.

I was arrayed in a plain immaculate Ugandan royal kanzu and my bride in a snow-white busuti-gomesi, the ceremonial Ugandan ladies' gown, complete with a white lace veil. And then there, was Alastair Niven, my best man, in a kilt.

I realise now that this was a rather beautiful blending of our cultural wealth from different and far-flung corners of the world, the kilt meeting the kanzu and the gomesi in a celebration of love!

And maybe that is what the Commonwealth is all about at bottom, a free and spontaneous sharing of the infinite variety of our cultures in a context of self and mutual respect.

Back to the Commonwealth Games, I was surprised to hear

1974

The year the Association for Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies (ACLALS) meeting was held at Makerere

that Cameroon was sending athletes to Glasgow! I hadn't realised that it was a Commonwealth country.

Cameroon recognises both English and French as official languages. But I hadn't expected the Francophone majority to support membership in an essentially English language-based organisation, as the Commonwealth is.

But then, the Commonwealth is a curiously rare and uncommon phenomenon, full of surprises in its origins, development and survival. Originally called the British Commonwealth, it started off as a post-colonial transformation of what was once the British Empire.

Empires, however, were colonial enterprises of subjugation and exploitation and you would have thought that anything reminiscent of imperial domination, as the Commonwealth might be, would be thoroughly distasteful to the formerly colonised people.

Indeed, disparaging comments to this effect have been made about the Commonwealth. My late teacher, Grant Kamenju, who had been a classmate of Ngugi wa Thiong'o at Leeds University, roundly denounced it as a neo-colonial outfit, with which he would rather have nothing to do.

This was in 1974 at an international conference of the Association for Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies (ACLALS) at Makerere in Uganda.

Kamenju might have been right about the origins of the Commonwealth, but what he missed was the realisation that you can't reduce human motivation to just one interest, whether this be politics, economics or ethnicity.

Otherwise, one would be at a loss to explain not only the enthusiastic adherence to the Commonwealth of countries, which bitterly fought Britain for their independence, like Kenya and India, but also the eagerness with which Commonwealth membership has been sought by countries like Rwanda, Mozambique and Namibia, which never had any direct links with London in the past.

The Scots will soon vote in a referendum on their independence from Great Britain. I hope that, regardless of the results of the referendum, Scotland will remain a part of the Commonwealth.

Prof Bukenya is one of the leading scholars of English and literature in East Africa.

How Uganda's writing scene is buzzing again

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 33

to flow. Unlike the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s that were male-dominated, the late 1990s to present times has been dominated by women. Through FEMRITE's doors have passed writers who have gone beyond Uganda's borders, making a name for themselves across the continent and internationally.

The writers they have nurtured include 2007 Caine Prize winner Monica Arac Nyeko; Beatrice Lamwaka and Doreen Baingana, who were shortlisted for the same prize in 2011 and 2005; Gladys Namukasa, who won the Macmillan Writers Prize for Africa (senior category) in 2005, and Mildred Barya, who won the Pan-African Literary Forum Award for Africana fiction in 2008.

Jackee Batanda also went on to win the Commonwealth short story competition (Africa region) in 2003, Violet Barungi, Goretti Kyomuhendo, Susan Kiguli and Mildred Barya, each also having been recognised for their work.

It's not just their short stories that are good, their larger published works are full of colour, verve and wit. Doreen Baingana's *Tropical Fish* won the Commonwealth Writers' Prize for Best First Book (Africa region) 2006 and was shortlisted for the Hurston/Wright Award 2006.

The dominance of women writers to date could be "pay-back" for their absence in the early decades, where Barbara Kimenyi of the *Moses* series stands out as probably the sole woman writing and publishing in that period.

It is not only women that have been at the forefront in recent Ugandan writing, though. Moses Isegawa's *Abyssinian Chronicles* is reported to be weighty and of note and Dilman Dila, who recently published with Storymoja, seems to be another guy to watch.

It is Jennifer Makumbi that holds the crown of literary star of the moment, having bagged the overall Commonwealth Short Story Prize a few weeks ago, just a few months after winning the Kwani Manuscript Prize for her recently launched novel, *Kintu*.

Reading the book, you realise that if it ends up setting the standard for other Ugandan writers to live up to, we are going to



Doreen Baingana

see a lot of good things coming out of there.

Teeming with traditional wisdom, psychological insights and a story spanning centuries, *Kintu* is bold, rich and provocative.

If the prose scene has been desultory, quite a bit has been happening on the poetry scene. Uganda features three monthly open mic events: Poetry in Session at The Hub in Kamocha, Kwivuga Poetry Session in Kampala and Open Mic Uganda, which is run by the Lantern Group of Poets.

Veteran poet and radio presenter Beverly Nambozo set up the Babishai Niwe (BN) Poetry Foundation, which gives an annual award to encourage poets.

Meanwhile, literary bloggers are springing up little by little. Nyana Kakoma's online site, *Soo Many Stories*, deftly makes use of the web to publish upcoming poets and writers, as well as report on matters literary on the continent.

And then, of course, there's Writivism, which also has its short story award and gives the opportunity for Ugandan writers to get mentored by local and international writers.

If Taban lo Liyong's utterances on the East African region being a literary wasteland were a curse, quite a bit of activity must have been taking place in the spirit world over the years.

If the case of Uganda is anything to go by, it seems the waters are quickly gushing in.

“

The dominance of women writers to date could be 'pay-back' for their absence in the early decades, where Barbara Kimenyi of the 'Moses' series stands out"

Kingwa Kamencu

Readers corner

Literary Discourse

Inspirational books good for students

BY COLLINS MUSANGA

It is almost five years since a university don gave a disparaging assessment of self help books, specifically Chief Nangoli's *Why you have Chosen to be Poor when there is too much Money in this World* (*Sunday Nation*, August 30, 2009). Since then, more intellectuals have come forward to dismiss motivational books as mere illusions lining up the pockets of writers.

Gaylord Gitau (*Saturday Nation*, May 3, 2014) also cast doubts on the ability of self help books to trigger an individual's inner awareness. Three contributors — Kimtai Cherongos, Eric Rugara and Barrack Oduor —have called for the introduction of inspiration literature in schools. Being teachers of secondary schools, they are better placed to know what is good for students.

Self-help books occupy large areas of bookshops and streets, an indication that Kenyans read them.

Motivational books are meant to arouse an urge for self improvement, something other books are unable to provide. There is no doubt that personal desire for self improvement is a defining trait of those seeking success in life and motivational books seek to achieve this.

How to Think and Grow Rich, Excuse me Your Dream is Calling You, Anyone Can Win — hundreds of these titles on the market indicate our craving to improve our lives.

By reading self help books, readers disabuse of the notion of luck, which has always perpetuated laziness. In her autobiography *The Daughter of Destiny*, Kathrin Kulman views luck as the ability to wake up early in the morning because at the end of day you are assured of the day's wage.

Authors of self-help books happen to be accomplished medical professionals, teachers, preachers, and financial experts who have made an impact in their respective areas, as well as entrepreneurs and business magnates. They are pace-setters who qualify to be role models to students both in secondary schools and universities.

Readers tend to prefer books which address their immediate concerns and therefore due to cases of insecurity, reports of people dying from lethal brew, economic hard times, betrayal from the political class and many suicide cases motivational books emerge as the only hope to keep them going.

Debating in schools is key to future success

BY FRANKLINE MUKEMBU

Debating is an integral component in school, especially in the teaching of English and Literature. Some teachers, however, have not taken debating seriously and rarely engage in it. Mastery of language is achieved through reading, writing and even speaking, which is where debating falls. Teachers of English like to skip this part, yet debating gives students self-confidence.

It is true that debating is examined through essay questions in literature and Kiswahili. Students who are conversant with various motion will stand a better chance when tackling such questions. Logical argument on various emerging issues by students can be cultivated through debating. Some teachers assume that debating is only a preserve of Parliament, but I believe talent has to be nurtured early. The most eloquent MPs were, no doubt, good debaters in primary and secondary schools. Confidence and courage is never inborn but is cultivated.

Teaching calls for devotion and sacrifice. Teachers have to mould their learners, especially during the formative years when various language skills are acquired. Learners will develop the ability to express themselves clearly. Language will forever remain the saliva by which other subjects are swallowed.

The writer teaches Kiswahili and Geography at Muthiu Day Secondary School in Meru County

Employer usurping role of education ministry

BY JOHN TSINJE

The Kenya National Union of Teachers (Knut) has opposed the provisions contained in The Basic Education Act Regulations, 2014, under which the Cabinet Secretary for Education will delegate the management of public institutions of basic education and training an agent to manage the institutions on his behalf.

Under the regulation, the appointed person will act as the accounting officer; lead educator; the team leader for the implementation of the ministry's policies and programs and the primary initiator of policy proposals for consideration by the County Education Boards and the Cabinet Secretary.

Knut has read malice in this provision. Knut Secretary General Wilson Sossion has been quoted as saying that the proposals were part of a bigger scheme by senior ministry officials to weaken the Teachers Service Commission (TSC).

Some brief background will help shed light on the genesis of the misunderstanding. The new Constitution elevated TSC to a constitutional status after proposals to devolve education to county governments were opposed by Knut and the Kenya Union of Post-Primary Teachers (KUPPET), saying this could easily lead to the dismemberment of the TSC and return teachers to



Ministry of Education headquarters at Jogoo House in Nairobi.

the pre-1968 period when teachers in the country had multiple employers.

The unions demanded that TSC be protected by the Constitution. This radically changed and expanded TSC functions and duties. It removed the supervision of teachers, including heads of schools, from the supervisory control of the Ministry.

According to the TSC Act, 2012, the commission now has to ensure that teachers comply with the teaching standards prescribed; facilitate career progression for teachers, including the appointment of head teachers and principals, and monitor the conduct and performance of teachers. It is on this basis that the commission assumed the power to appoint head teachers and principals.

Yet that power is inherently

vested in the Cabinet Secretary who, under Article 53 of the Basic Education Act, is responsible for the overall governance and management of basic education.

However, the Constitution removed the supervision of teachers, including heads of basic education institutions, from the supervisory control of the Ministry. This left the Cabinet Secretary with nobody to entrust quality assurance and the management of school finances, property and non-teaching staff.

The Ministry of Education has, for many years, had Inspectors of Education. They used to inspect teachers in primary and secondary schools. They are now designated as Quality Assurance and Standards Officers. The Ministry has a fully-fledged Directorate of Education Standards and Quality Assurance.

The Cabinet Secretary cannot develop education policy, design standards, curricula, examinations, without having the direct control of schools.

There should be no conflict between the ministry and the TSC. The two complement each other: The Ministry to develop curricular and finance curriculum delivery; the TSC to supply teachers.

The wrangling will hurt learners more than the mandarins at Jogoo House or TSC.

The writer is a political scientist

Change tack in teaching of literature for it to take its rightful place in society

BY VIVERE NANDIEMO

In the contemporary world, literature plays a very important role in shaping the social, political and economic fabric of the society. It is the vehicle through which society is made better. This is why we study literature in schools.

As a mirror of the society, it presents the society as it is, with a view of correcting the bad and encouraging the good. However, it is apparent that our study and teaching of literature is not geared towards making our society better. Rather, it is mainly done as a means to an end.

This is why the teaching of literature in secondary schools leaves a lot to be desired. The sad reality is that literature is taught solely to make students pass exams. Clearly, literature is not playing its rightful role in our society. This explains why, as a society, we continue to experience political and social evils like sexual immorality, corruption, tribalism, violence,

injustice, and poor leadership. The question then is: Just where did we go wrong?

Our education system does not have a clear cut direction on the literary experience students should have. The Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development developed the aims and objectives of teaching and learning literature but it did not offer a firm direction on how these aspirations will be achieved. This role has been left to teachers. That is why teachers have resorted to teaching students to pass exam only.

Yet literature addresses a wide range of psychological and sociological issues. At its heart are issues of conflict and the range of human desires that contributes to such conflict.

That is why teachers of literature should go beyond the conventional ways of analysing texts by solely relying on grilling the students on the examinable issues in the set text. They should lead the students to getting crucial lessons that will enable them

live a better life in society. For instance, a teacher of literature should be able to let students know the consequences of living a morally loose, happy-go-lucky life that Becky lived in the novel *The River and the Source*. This will go a long way to enhance invaluable moral values in the students.

Students should personally engage with the texts, leading to a strong intellectual and emotional awareness of themes, characters, setting and contexts besides enabling them discover the joys of reading about the world around them. Hence learners should be able to know for instance that humanity calls for show of concern and value for human life just like Grusha does for Michael in *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*. The students should be led to link the set texts to real life. It is then that we will start seeing the importance of studying literature.

The writer is a teacher of English and Literature at Sakuri Girls' in Kuria East

Holidays a good time for tours

BY AMOS KIRONG

With less than a month to the schools August holiday, and with tuition remaining banned, the government should contemplate making educational trips mandatory. The best time for this to be undertaken is during the holidays.

Trips play a vital role in the learning process. First, trips give learning meaning as some of the facts learned in the classroom can be experienced first hand. It also helps to break boredom associated with sitting in the classroom the whole day. Trips help students appreciating the beauty of their country and beyond.

By travelling to various strategic areas rich with historical, social or political information, learners will be able to appreciate the potential that lies in our motherland. At a tender age, they will appreciate individual differences, enhancing cohesion and national unity.

There are schools that have made educational trips part and parcel of their learning. These schools organise annual trips that see them visit many parts of the country. There are even schools, with the help of travel agents, that organise international trips. In doing so, they accord the learners the necessary exposure.

Upcountry schools, with the help of the government, can make trips to Nairobi. The capital city offers a range of many places to tour. The Bomas of Kenya will provide a cultural experience. Other places that can be visited in Nairobi include Parliament, The Nairobi Museum, KICC, Jomo Kenyatta International Airport, Nairobi National Park, and The Meteorological Centre.

The coast region, likewise, has countless places to visit. Schools can tour the Gede Ruins, the Mangrove Forest, Vasco Da Gama Pillar, Marine Wildlife and the Sabaki Bridge. Within Mombasa, they can visit Fort Jesus, The Old Town, The Kenya Ports Authority, and Mama Ngina Drive.

Other exciting places that can be visited include The Crying Stone in Kakamega, Impala Park in Kisumu, Ndura Conservancy in Kitale, Kitum Caves in Endebess and Kimorong Falls on the Slopes of Mt Elgon.

The government position behind the tuition ban is no doubt justifiable. Children need to rest and there can be no better way to rest than taking these children to interesting places to visit during holidays.

The writer coordinates trips and teaches English at Greenvale School, Eldoret

To contribute to this page, please send your comments to satnation@ke.nationmedia.com or write to The Editor, Saturday Nation, POB 49010, Nairobi 00100.

THEATRE REVIEW | Anyuola theatre group performs in various venues in Nakuru County

How we recite folk tales and make a living

Theatre group took up challenge of reviving dying art form and offers for performances have been flooding in

BY MAGDALENE WANJA
lenewanja@gmail.com

In the old days, children would gather around the fireplace to listen to their grandparents' didactic folk tales.

Children looked forward to the story telling evenings, which at times involved impromptu songs that they joined in, always with plenty of mirth.

The whole family would sit around and talk, with the sessions helping to form lasting bonds among family members.

However, this ritual has faded over the years. Changing lifestyles in Kenya and the rest of Africa have led to the break-up of extended families, paving the way for the ever busy nuclear family whose members are in hot pursuit of education and wealth.

The role played by the grandmothers and grandfathers has been quietly shifted to school teachers, who spend the highest amount of time with children during their formative years. But the teachers are unable to incorporate traditional knowledge in the school curricula at any level.

The art of story telling com-

bined folk tales, poetry, music, and dance.

It is a rare art in the modern day, with most current storytellers coming out as entertainers, educators, cultural advisors and historians for the community. Through storytelling, a community's traditional taboos, myths, proverbs, sayings and cultural practices were handed down from generation to generation.

Storytellers have long vanished from the villages, yet a group of artists in Nakuru County appears determined to maintain it, or at least a modern version of it.

Collins Oduor and Ronald Onyango of Anyuola Story Minds Group have reinvented storytelling and have a busy schedule performing in schools and at the Nakuru Players Theatre every Wednesdays and during weekends.

Anyuola Group was formed to fill the gap created by the modern lifestyle. The group also helps children develop to gain confidence to participate in music and drama festivals.

Oral narratives

The group employs styles meant to appeal to children, including animal characters, in their oral narrative pieces.

The use of symbols in telling stories triggers keen listening from the audience. The storytellers use dramatic skills such as characterisation, narration, vocalisation, and miming.

"The most common animals in our stories are the hare, the hyena hippos and the lion," said



SULEIMAN MBATIAH | NATION
Mr Collins Oduor, an oral narrator, rehearsing at the Nakuru Players Theatre on July 15, 2014. Mr Oduor is a member of Anyuola Story Minds Group that goes around schools in Nakuru County narrating oral narratives to pupils.

Collins Oduor.

During his live sessions, he engages the audience through music and dance as he narrates his tale.

"I prefer a small audience for easy interaction and participation of every member of the audience, which keeps the sessions lively," he added.

Mr Oduor says that this has turned out to be one of the best methods of education as the message passed through this is likely to stick to the children's minds.

After the story he asks the children to choose the character of an animal featured in the story that they would wish to emulate from the lessons learned in order to fit in the society.

Their oral narrative involves use of Luhya, Luo, English and Swahili languages. Apart from visiting schools, Anyuola narrators also perform at the Nakuru Players' Theatre.

"Though not a popular form of art, storytelling has its own audience that varies with age," says Mr Oduor.

He, however, notes the emergence of a new form of oral narrative called relay story which involves two narrators.

"This is mostly done by high school students. This type of storytelling also uses a lot of music and dance to relay its message," he added.

He adds that venturing into this form of art is a great investment as it has a ready market.

“

I prefer a small audience for easy interaction and participation of every member of the audience, which keeps the sessions lively”

**Collins Oduor
of Anyuola
Story Minds
Group**

Ugandan songbird aims to conquer Kenyan fans

BY AMOS NGAIRA
angaira@ke.nationmedia.com

While politicians are busy bickering over the petty differences, musicians seem to be ready to take the lead towards a greater integration of East Africa. Some Kenyan, Ugandan, Tanzanian, Rwandan and Burundian singers are already reaping the benefits of a larger regional market. The big names include Uganda's Jose Chameleon, Tanzania's Diamond, Burundi's Kidum, and Kenya's Nonini.

The latest to traverse the borders is Uganda's Harriet Taakah, who is based in Jinja Town, on the shores of Lake Victoria, about 100km from Kampala.

Harriet, whose debut album titled *Ono*, is already out, has been attracting a steadily growing number of fans in Uganda and Kenya.

She sings in the Samia language, a Luhya dialect spoken by a community that straddles the Kenya and Uganda border. This explains the wide appeal

of her music in western Kenya, besides her home region of eastern Uganda. But the singer is keen to take her new, exciting sound beyond her community and the two countries.

A graduate of literature and drama from the Makerere University, she also holds a post-graduate diploma in computer science from the same university.

Her music has been featured on various FM stations, including the Kampala-based Mama FM. Her songs have seen increasing traffic on YouTube, which is exciting for a singer who not long ago was totally unknown even in Jinja, where she was born.

The title song *Ono* is a love ballad. For inspiration, she cites Kenya's Amani and her compatriot Julianne Kanyomozi as her inspiration.

The budding singer has been drawing crowds in Jinja, where she regularly performs at Nile View Casino backed by a session band. Speaking to *Saturday Nation*, Harriet said she

was looking forward to promoting her music in Uganda and Kenya.

She has adopted the Zouk beat blended with a contemporary Afro-sound. Her album features tracks such as *Benedicta*, and *Mwalimu Arina* and *Missing You*. "My intention was to reach more fans in Kenya, Uganda and beyond through my music," she says.

She started her long journey of putting together the new album back in 2011 in Kampala. "It wasn't easy, being a self-sponsored project," she said. However, she completed the recording at the Purple Code Studios.

However, it was until recently that she launched the album.

"I was inspiring after listening to Ugandan songbird Julianne Kanyomozi and Kenyan Amani. These are the two singers I have always idolised."

Earlier this year, she visited Nairobi on the invitation of Abasamia Development Association, whose chairman, Johnson Friday, has since become her contact in Nairobi.



Ugandan musician Harriet Taakah

WEEK'S PICK

TODAY

PIRATES BEACH CLUB

The Pirates Beach Club in Mombasa will stage the Ziki La Nazi show this evening featuring Juukua the band, Ally B, Susumila, Kingting and Nyota Ndogo. DJs Lenium and Babz will also thrill revellers from 5pm till dawn.

JAZZ UNDER THE STARS

The Nairobi Club will today host Jazz Under the Stars featuring Julian Vaughn and Phil Denny from USA. The show will also feature Eddie Grey, June Gachui among others.

DJ IZRAEL AT MTWAPA



Popular DJ Izrael of Churchill Live will tonight entertain during a disco extravaganza at Mtwapa's Club Lambada International. Tomorrow afternoon its family funday featuring comedian Kasuku Kicheko at the same spot.

HAKUNA MATATA FESTIVAL

The out of town Hakuna Matata Festival will be held today at Migaa in Kiambu County. The show will feature Just a Band and Le Band. DJs Creme Dela Creme, Protege, Hypnotiq, Stretch Foozak among others.

RIFT VALLEY FESTIVAL

Rift Valley Festival launch party will be held today at Kuona Trust in Nairobi. It will feature performances by Sarabi and Yellow Light Machine, among others. The main event will be held from next Tuesday to Friday in Naivasha.

QFM AT CLUB SAMBA-NAKURU

QFM's Dokotolo Lawi will feature in the QFM Rumba Kitoko Night today at Nakuru's Club Samba. The event will feature the best of rhumba from 6pm till dawn.

TOMORROW

BLANKETS & WINE SHOW

The 54th Edition of Blankets and Wine show will be held tomorrow afternoon at the Carnivore Restaurant in Nairobi. Those to perform include Cece Sagini, Mumala Maloba, Wendy Kimani and Fena. The event will start at 1pm and end at 7pm.

SOUND AFRIQUE IN BUSIA



The Sound Afrique Band featuring Princess Eve Namulanda and others will tonight perform at Club Quill in Busia town. The group specialises in rumba, zouk and Afro-fusion, among other beats.

KANDA KING IN MACHAKOS

Popular dance sensation and singer Kanda King performs every Sunday at Machakos Peoples' Park. On Fridays, he performs at Dajosky in Nairobi's Umoja estate. Every Wednesday, he performs at the Club Leos in Thika town.

AUGUST 9

CANDY RECORDS IN NAIVASHA

Candy Records will stage the East African Community marathon campaign against terrorism next Saturday at Naivasha's Hippo camp. There will be lots of entertainment for families.

angaira@ke.nationmedia.com

WORLD

ROW | Some countries had suspended aid to the east African country

Uganda court scraps anti-gay law ahead of Museveni's tour of the US



But activists vow to appeal decision and lobby for another Bill

BY EMMANUEL LEROUX-NEGA

KAMPALA, Friday

Uganda's constitutional court today overturned tough new anti-gay laws that had been branded draconian and "abominable" by rights groups, saying they had been wrongly passed by parliament.

The law is "null and void," presiding judge Steven Kavuma told the court, saying the process had contravened the Constitution, as it has been passed in Parliament in December without the necessary quorum of lawmakers.

Cheering gay rights activists celebrated the ruling, but supporters of the law said they would appeal at the Supreme Court.

"Justice prevailed, we won," said lawyer Nicholas Opiyo, who led the challenge in the constitutional court.

"The retrogressive anti-homosexuality act of Uganda has been struck down by the constitutional court — it's now dead as a door

nail," said Andrew Mwenda, one of 10 petitioners.

The law, signed by Uganda's veteran President Yoweri Museveni in February, said that homosexuals should be jailed for life, outlawed the promotion of homosexuality and obliged Ugandans to denounce gays to the authorities.

US Secretary of State John Kerry likened the law to anti-Semitic legislation in Nazi Germany, and Western nations made a raft of aid cuts to Uganda's government.

But homosexuality in Uganda remains illegal and punishable by jail sentences under previous legislation, which is expected to return after the court's decision.

Government spokesman Ofwono Opondo said the law — as it is on paper — remains valid, saying it had been struck down on a matter of procedure and not over its content.

"The ruling has not nullified the anti-homosexuality law, it only ruled on the validity of the procedure in parliament,"

he said. But gay rights activists were celebrating.

"I am no longer a criminal, today we have made history for generations to come," said Kasha Jacqueline, another petitioner and a prominent gay rights activist.

'No longer criminal'

"I am officially legal," said Frank Mugisha, another petitioner, but admitting despite his "celebration mood" the ruling was only the "beginning of a very long battle".

"The law has been struck on technicalities, so the big picture is still there," he said.

Lawmakers could seek to reintroduce a Bill to parliament, a potentially lengthy process, with the last such Bill taking four years from introduction to the final vote. David Bahati, the MP who introduced the bill — which initially proposed the death penalty as punishment — said he still backed the law.

"It is a setback but not a major one, because the law is intact," he told AFP.



Left: Ugandan anti-gay activists led by controversial Pastor Martin Sempa (centre) speak to the press after the ruling. Right: Members of Uganda's gay community and gay rights activists celebrate after the ruling yesterday.
ISAAC KASAMANI/ AFP

“

The ruling has not nullified the anti-homosexuality law, it only ruled on the validity of the procedure in Parliament,”

Government spokesman Ofwono Opondo explaining the effects of the ruling to the media

REACTION

NGOs laud the decision

"We are determined to appeal this case at the Supreme Court."

Outspoken anti-gay preacher Pastor Martin Ssempay

"We are pleased that this law cannot be enforced and entrench further discrimination."

Maria Burnett from Human Rights Watch



NOW ISRAEL-HAMAS TRUCE COLLAPSES AS SOLDIER HELD
US and Egypt frantically try to rescue peace process amid air raids. **Page 42**

BRIEFLY

ADDIS

S. Sudan leaders to resume peace talks



South Sudan's warring leaders will resume peace talks next week, mediators said Friday, amid warnings of famine within weeks if fighting continues. Much delayed talks, which were initially due to start this week, will resume on Monday, mediators from the East African IGAD bloc said in statement. Aid agencies have warned of famine within weeks if fighting continues. IGAD said the resumption of talks had been delayed by "extended holidays" by leaders representing President Salva Kiir (right) and rebel leader Riek Machar. (AFP)

ALGIERS

Six killed after quake hits Algeria capital

Six people were killed and hundreds injured as panic gripped areas of the Algerian capital when an earthquake of 5.6 magnitude struck offshore early yesterday, an emergency official said. The crisis team member, revising an earlier casualty toll, said that four people had died after jumping off their balconies and two others of cardiac arrest. The casualties were inside Algiers. (AFP)

TRIPOLI

Asian workers refuse to leave war-torn Libya

A Philippine plan to evacuate all 13,000 of its workers in strife-torn Libya is a "challenge", with many reluctant to leave despite the dangers, the Filipino foreign ministry said yesterday.

The ministry announced a "mandatory" evacuation of all 13,000 of its nationals living in Libya last month after the beheading of a Filipino worker abducted by unknown suspects. That killing was followed by the gang rape of a Filipina nurse in Tripoli on Wednesday. The country has been in turmoil since 2011. (AFP)



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TERROR | Groups still controls part of the rural areas and launches sporadic attacks

Somalia MP killed in Shabaab raid

Militant group vowed to assassinate lawmakers who approved the deployment of African Union troops in cities

Mogadishu, Friday

Somalia's Shabaab insurgents said they had assassinated a lawmaker in Mogadishu as he left prayers at a mosque on Friday, the fifth MP killed this year in a string of attacks.

"This was a legitimate target, and he was killed on the orders of Allah," Shabaab spokesman Abdiaziz Abu Musab told AFP, adding that the Al-Qaeda-linked insurgents were "preparing to kill all the other MPs".

Gunmen opened fire from a car in a drive-by shooting in the centre of the city before racing off, witnesses said.

"Sheikh Adan Madeer was shot and killed in central Mogadishu by gunmen, the gunmen then fled," witness Abdisan Mohamed told AFP.

Madeer was chairman of the parliamentary finance committee.

"He returned from a mosque near his house... when two gunmen shot him dead. Now we are preparing his burial," Madeer's relative Nur Mohamed said. Shabaab fighters fled fixed positions in Mogadishu three years ago and have since lost most large towns to a 22,000-strong UN-backed African Union force, fighting alongside government soldiers.

But they still hold sway in vast swathes of the rural hinterland from which they regularly launch guer-



MOHAMED ABDIWAHAB | AFP

Soldiers from the African Union patrol Mogadishu streets. Militants have threatened to target MPs who authorised their deployment in Somalia.

rilla raids. Recent Shabaab attacks in Somalia have targeted key areas of government and security forces in an apparent bid to discredit claims by the authorities and AU troops that they are winning the war.

Last month the Shabaab launched an assault on the presidential palace using similar tactics deployed in an attack on the same fortified compound in February.

In May, the Islamist insurgents also launched a similar attack against the national parliament. Shabaab spokesman Musab said the extremists were targeting MPs as they had "authorised the deployment of foreign troops. (AFP).

In Somalia, and were a pillar of the

apostate government."

The Shebab have also increased carried out attacks against regional countries with troops in the AU force, with a series of killings in neighbouring Kenya, following last September's attack on Nairobi's Westgate mall in which at least 67 people were killed.

The latest killing comes amid growing warnings of a humanitarian crisis in the war-torn country, three years after more than 250,000 people, half of them children, died in the devastating 2011 famine. The United Nations has warned Somalia is sliding back into an acute hunger crisis, with over 350,000 people in Mogadishu in need of food aid, with

BACKGROUND

Agency warns of humanitarian crisis

The latest killing comes amid growing warnings of a humanitarian crisis in the war-torn country, three years after more than 250,000 people, half of them children, died in the devastating 2011 famine. The United Nations has warned Somalia is sliding back into an acute hunger crisis, with over 350,000 people in Mogadishu in need of food shortages.

parts of the city facing emergency levels just short of famine. Recent UN assessments show "above emergency levels of malnutrition" in seven towns, including the major centres of Garowe, Galkayo and Kismayo, as well as Mogadishu. (AFP)

AMERICAN IGNORANCE? | Randall Smith

Why it took America media 700 lives for them to highlight Ebola epidemic

News is what happens close to an editor.

That humorous adage is popular in media companies around the world. But it could easily reflect the American public's engagement with the Ebola crisis, which is ravaging Sierra Leone, Liberia, Guinea and Nigeria, and is slowly creeping to the upper level of the American conscience.

When I began monitoring the situation last spring, there was little mention of the crisis on mainstream American news sites. At the time, I was telling everyone who would listen that it could easily become a worldwide pandemic. Today, the story is finally being discussed in America. But we may be too late to save ourselves.

The reason that we are engaged? American aid workers have contracted the disease in Africa. With the spread of Ebola to Nigeria and its direct flights to Asia, Europe and America, airports are now on the alert worldwide for sick passengers who originated in central Africa.

It took that case to catch the attention of America, but by that time, 700 had died in central Africa.

I have seen Ebola's face, and it causes great fear wherever it appears. The disease can hide for up to three weeks in the body and then break out and kill in a matter of days.

That happened last week in Lagos, Nigeria, when an American contractor, who had been working in Liberia, collapsed after getting off a plane.

My first Ebola experience was in Uganda in 2012 when Ebola hit the forest area near the Congo border.

My apartment complex in Kampala was suddenly inundated one evening by European doctors carrying moon suits. They had come to isolate those exposed to the virus and to stamp it out. They succeeded.

During the battle, one of the victims was transported and isolated at a Kampala hospital. An international news company reported that the disease had come to the

Ugandan capital, sparking fear that it might spread throughout East Africa.

My second experience with a scary disease was in Beijing in 2009. My plane from Chicago had just landed and the pilot announced that none of us would be able to get off until Chinese health inspectors had checked all passengers.

Sitting in the main cabin, I saw people dressed in moon suits working through the seated passengers. When they got to me, one pressed a temperature monitor to my forehead to see if I was suffering from a fever. Another asked if I had been ill in the last few days.

If one person in our plane had been found suffering from

“

My first Ebola experience was in Uganda in 2012 when Ebola hit the forest”

a fever, we would have all been transported to a quarantine area outside of the city to be monitored for two or three weeks.

We were cleared. Walking off the plane, I was tested again in the airport. At my hotel, the bellman gave me a thermometer and asked me to take my temperature.

The Chinese were not searching for Ebola. They were looking for a derivative of the SARS virus that severely harmed the nation's economy over a decade ago. It was an example of how fear can change life dramatically.

America is withdrawing Peace Corps volunteers from western Africa. There have been panics in American emergency rooms over possible Ebola outbreaks. None of the scares turned out to be real.

The Ebola story was ignored too long. Now that it is in Nigeria, the question is not whether Ebola will arrive on American shores. The question is when.



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Militia hacks 22 as CAR truce falters

Bangui, Friday

At least 22 people were killed in clashes between rival anti-balaka and Seleka militias in the Central African Republic this week, African peacekeepers said on Friday.

"People claiming to be members of anti-balaka entered the town on Wednesday and starting shooting in the direction of the bases of former Seleka, triggering a riposte," an officer from the Misca peacekeeping force said of the fighting in the northwestern town of Batangafo.

He told AFP that most of the victims were civilians and that there were also several dozen people injured.

Locals had fled "en masse to take refuge in a local hospital at the Misca base", the officer said, but added that a relative calm had returned to the town by Friday morning. "We don't know what led the anti-balaka to provoke these clashes," local resident Paul Ngaimbe told AFP.

Batangafo lies in the district of Ouham, home of former president Francois Bozize, who was overthrown by the Seleka rebels in March 2013.

The mostly Muslim Seleka carried out a campaign of violence against the majority Christian community in the following months, prompting set up of anti-balaka militia.

Clashes between the two groups have plunged the country into a cycle of brutal sectarian violence.

WAR IN MIDDLE EAST | Fighting continues in Rafah as casualties mount

Israel-Hamas ceasefire collapses after soldier is kidnapped in Gaza attack

Army accuses militants of violating deal as Egypt calls off talks that offered hope for peace

Gaza, Friday

A three-day Gaza truce collapsed today after an Israel soldier was kidnapped, jeopardising international efforts for a durable ceasefire.

The skies over Gaza initially fell silent after the humanitarian truce announced overnight by US Secretary of State John Kerry, the longest of several agreed since the conflict broke out on July 8.

It gave a brief respite to people in the battered strip from fighting that has killed nearly 1,500 on the Palestinian side, mostly civilians, and 61 Israeli soldiers and three civilians on the other.

But within hours air raid sirens warning of rocket fire were heard on the Israeli side of the border, and heavy artillery shelling renewed in the southern city of Rafah, killing at least 27 people and injuring 100 more, medics said.

AFP correspondents said there appeared to be fierce fighting ongoing in the vicinity of Rafah, and medics had trouble retrieving the dead and wounded.

The army warned residents of the city to remain in their homes.

"The residents of Rafah must stay in their houses. The army is pursuing terrorist elements in Rafah," a voice message sent to cellphones of Gaza residents said. Israeli forces in the south-



MOHAMMED ABED| AFP

A Palestinian man gathers his belongings from the rubble of his home in Jabalia in the northern Gaza Strip yesterday. A 72-hour ceasefire agreed on earlier did not even last for hours.

BACKGROUND

Operation one of the most deadly

Air strikes: Israel launches Operation Protective Edge, with air strikes on Gaza to counter rocket fire from Palestinian militants.

Deaths: The operation is Israel's most deadly since 2009, killing nearly 1,500 Palestinians, mostly civilians, including at least 242 children.

ern Gaza Strip were searching for the missing soldier they fear may have been captured by mili-

tants during clashes on Friday, the army said.

"Initial indications suggest that a soldier has been abducted by terrorists," a statement said. "The Israel Defence Forces are currently conducting intelligence efforts and extensive searches in order to locate the missing soldier."

Kerry had said earlier that once the ceasefire was under way, Israeli and Palestinian

representatives, including from Hamas, would begin talks in Cairo on a more durable truce.

The ceasefire was a joint US-UN initiative and would give civilians "a much needed reprieve", the top US diplomat said in New Delhi.

"This is a respite, a moment of opportunity — not an end. It's not a solution," he warned, saying Israeli forces would remain inside Gaza. (AFP)

Ethiopia migrants escape Saudi jail

Riyadh, Friday

escaped early on Thursday.

Nearly 70 illegal migrant workers, mostly Ethiopians, have fled from a detention centre in the Saudi capital, local media reported today, adding that authorities have re-arrested 25 of them.

Police have been cracking down on illegal migrants since the expiration in November of a seven-month amnesty during which they had to regularise their status or leave the country, in operations that have sparked deadly clashes.

"Around 70 detainees broke the wall of their cell at a foreigners' detention centre in Al-Marbaa neighbourhood of Riyadh and managed to escape," online news website Sabq.org said, quoting a prisons spokesman, Abdullah al-Harbi.

"Twenty-five of them have been caught and a search is ongoing for the rest," he said.

Al-Hayat daily reported that the inmates dug a hole into the wall of their cell and

Nearly one million foreign migrants took advantage of last year's amnesty to leave voluntarily, while another four million were able to find employers to sponsor them, a legal requirement in Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states. Since the start of this year, Saudi authorities have deported nearly 574,000 illegals, according to official figures.

More than 13,000 migrants are still being held at detention centres across the kingdom awaiting completion of their deportation procedures.

In March, one illegal migrant died and nine others were wounded when police intervened to quell "chaos" at Al-Shumaisi detention centre in western Saudi Arabia, police said. Expatriates account for nine million of the oil-rich kingdom's population of 27 million. Despite its huge oil wealth, Saudi Arabia has a jobless rate of more than 12.5 percent among its citizens. (AFP)

MUD AND TEARS | Hindu wrestlers mark snakes fest



SANJAY KANOJIA| AFP

Indian wrestlers perform during a bout of traditional wrestling organised at the historical Loknath Vyayamsala (Fitness Centre) on the occasion of Nag Panchami, in Allahabad yesterday. The festival is observed with prayers and tributes.

Gas blasts kill dozens as fete turns tragic

Taipei, Friday

A series of powerful gas blasts killed at least 25 people and injured up to 267 Friday in the southern Taiwanese city of Kaohsiung, overturning cars and ripping up roads as terrified residents fled an inferno.

The explosions sparked massive fires which tore through the city's Cianjhen district, leaving a yawning trench running for hundreds of metres down the middle of a major thoroughfare and littering the streets with dead bodies.

Dramatic video footage captured by dashboard cameras inside cars showed multiple blasts and pillars of flame erupting from manholes as drivers frantically tried to avoid being engulfed.

The National Fire Agency said the blasts killed at least 25 people and injured around 267 in Taiwan's second largest city.

Four firefighters who rushed to the scene after residents smelled gas were among those killed in the blasts while rescuers were searching for two others who went missing.

Premier Jiang Yi-huan inspected the affected areas and said flags would be flown at half-mast at government offices and schools across the island from August 5 for three days to mourn the victims of the blasts as well as a fatal air crash last week.

Chinese President Xi Jinping

10

The number of people killed when a train smashed into a crowded bus carrying a bridal party in the Bangladesh capital today

expressed his condolences to the victims of the gas explosions, the official Xinhua news agency said.

The blasts, believed to have been triggered by gas leaking from underground pipelines, were powerful enough to flip cars and split open paved roads.

One street had been ripped along its length, swallowing several fire engines and other vehicles, while some houses had their roofs blown off.

Workers were using cranes to lift up the vehicles and bulldozers to clean up the scene later Friday. In Bangladesh, a train smashed into a crowded bus carrying a bridal party west of the Bangladesh capital today morning leaving at least 10 people dead and 57 injured, police said.

The Simanta Express train ploughed through the bus and then dragged it at least 500 metres (545 yards) along the tracks at Barobazar town near Bangladesh's western border with India, police inspector Mizanur Rahman told AFP. "We've recovered 10 bodies while 57 people have been hospitalised — all of them from the bridal party. Conditions of several people are very critical," Rahman said. Police said the accident occurred at an unguarded railway crossing, allowing cars and buses to move freely. (AFP)

BUSINESS



ALCOHOL FROM 76 FIRMS SUSPENDED OVER SAFETY

Anyone found retailing in the suspect drinks risks prosecution. **Page 44**

SAVINGS | The government will be spending about Sh15 billion annually on the retirees project

Civil servants' pension scheme now postponed for six months

Treasury says that it would take until January 2015 to put in place systems meant to manage the money

BY RAMENYA GIBENDI

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The civil servants contributory retirement scheme has been postponed to January 2015, as the Treasury battles to put in place plans to manage the funds.

Treasury Cabinet Secretary Henry Rotich yesterday said that the scheme would take an extra six months to be set up. It was to start on July 1.

"The government has set up Sh7 billion for the half-year from January 2015 to the end of the current financial year as we still put in place the administrative and legal framework," Mr Rotich said.

The Cabinet Secretary was speaking on the sidelines of the official opening of the Alexander Forbes Investment Conference 2014 that brought together pen-

sion funds, fund managers and clients.

This is the third time the government is delaying to put in place what is considered a sustainable retirement plan for civil workers.

The roll out of a contributory pension scheme is deemed as critical to safeguarding long-term sustainability of State resources in the face of runaway wage bill.

Transition

Currently, the taxpayer bears the full burden of financing the retirement benefits of government workers which hit Sh96 billion last year.

Civil servants are expected to make a monthly contribution of 7.5 per cent of their salary phased in three years each at 2.5 per cent to allow a seamless transition.

Mr Rotich said that the gov-

ernment will then match the contributions with an amount equivalent to 15 per cent of every worker's monthly pay to bring the total contribution to 22.5 per cent of a worker's pay.

As a consequence, Mr Rotich said it is estimated that the gov-

RETIREMENT

Changes in pension plan

Currently, the taxpayer shoulders the burden of financing the retirement benefits of government workers.

In the new model, the civil servants are expected to make a monthly contribution of 7.5 per cent of their pay phased in three years each at 2.5 per cent to allow a seamless transition.

ernment will be spending Sh15 billion annually if the scheme is implemented.

Under the scheme, civil servants will also benefit from a state-sponsored life insurance worth a minimum of five times an individual's annual pensionable remunerations.

"Currently, all civil servants retire as they go but with the scheme, they will be enjoying benefits of a pension fund as opposed to relying on taxpayers money," Alexander Forbes chief executive officer, Mr Sundeep Raichura, said.

Mr Raichura noted that the government needs to fast-track implementation of the scheme as the burden of paying retirees keeps growing each year.

About Sh45.9 billion is expected to be paid to pensioners in the current financial year under the Defined Benefits Scheme.

FREEBIE | Vivo Energy introduces two new brands with a 'happy hour'



Boda Bodas queue for fuel at Shell Petrol Station, Mbagathi Way, in Nairobi during the launch of a limited *Happy Hour* campaign by Vivo Energy. During the campaign, motorists fuelled for free for one hour at the pump station yesterday. The promotion is aimed at giving motorists an opportunity to sample Vivo Energy's new fuel products – Shell FuelSave Unleaded and Shell FuelSave diesel. The two have replaced the Shell Diesel Extra and Shell Unleaded Extra which have been in the market.

SALATON NJAU | NATION

Britam enters Rwanda as its Sh6bn bond debuts in bourse

BY NATION CORRESPONDENT

Investment firm, Britam, has expanded its business in Rwanda with Sh256 million capital in a bid to tap into the uninsured population.

This comes a few weeks after the company raised Sh6 billion in an over-subscribed bond, which started trading on the Nairobi Securities Exchange yesterday.

Its entry into Rwanda is part of a

regional expansion plan it is spearheading with the funds it raised through a corporate bond.

"We have always been keen on expanding into emerging markets. This particular strategy is what informs our East African expansion drive.

"We already have a presence in Kenya, Uganda and South Sudan. Rwanda thus completes our current footprint in the region," Britam's group managing director Benson

Wairegi, said. At the moment, only 2.3 per cent of people in Rwanda have insurance, but Britam expects to increase this even as it offers asset and property management services in the new market.

Britam plans to increase its investments across Eastern and Southern Africa with the Sh6 billion war chest.

The firm has an eye on property development, investment in private

equity as well as information and communication technology. The bond, which was launched two months ago, received bids worth Sh7.323 billion, a 144 per cent over-subscription.

Green shoe option

The first tranche meant to raise Sh3 billion had a green shoe option for an additional Sh3 billion.

Following the oversubscription, Britam exercised a green shoe op-

tion to retain the full amount of Sh6 billion. "We're happy to note that the bond market has opened up and that Britam has taken this up successfully as one of the ways to raise funds," Britam board chairman Francis Muthaura noted.

The firm's acquisition of a 99 per cent stake in Kenya's Real Insurance in December last year has seen it become the largest Pan African insurer in East and Central Africa.

“

This project reinforces government's resolve to make infrastructure a key aspect in our social and economic development.”

President Uhuru Kenyatta

DISPUTE | Nacada chairman faults the procedure in which the quality licences were issued in the first place

Alcohol from 76 firms suspended over safety

Anyone found retailing in the brews would be prosecuted, warns ministry of Health

BY RAMENYA GIBENDI

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The fate of 76 alcohol manufacturers now hangs in the balance after the ministry of Health suspended their products, two months after being cleared by the National Campaign against Alcohol and Drug Abuse.

In a communication to county public health officers, the Health ministry called for the suspension of all alcoholic products produced and/or imported by the 76 companies over safety concerns.

"Suspend the production of alcoholic drinks as their quality licenses have been withdrawn by Kenya Bureau of Standards," the letter signed

by director of public health, Mr Kepha Ombacho, on July 14, reads.

Mr Ombacho recommend confiscation and prosecution of anyone retailing in the alcoholic drinks produced by the firms at the centre of a fresh storm in the alcohol business.

In May this year, Nacada published a list of manufacturers and importers that it said complied with the government directives on sell of alcoholic drinks.

Ironically, the list included the companies whose quality licenses have now been withdrawn, begging the question on the criteria used by Nacada to clear them.

Supremacy battle

But in what appears to be a brewing supremacy battle, Nacada chairman John Mututho has questioned the circumstances under which the certificates were issued.

"The certificates were issued by the bureau and we have copies of the same. It is a pity that the bureau later on decides to withdraw them," Mr Mututho said.

FIGHTING COUNTERFEITS

Confusion mars withdrawal of permits



“

Suspend the production of alcohol drinks as their quality licences have been withdrawn by Kebs."

Director of public health,
Mr Kepha Ombacho



“

The certificates were issued by KEBS and we have copies of the same. It is a pity that Kebs later decides to withdraw them."

Nacada chair John Mututho

Mr Mututho is also putting to question authenticity of the test results done by the government chemist and the bureau due to inconsistency of the results.

"When a number of Kenyans died recently after consuming suspicious alcohol, the result that we got from the government chemist indicated that only three brands tested positive for methanol while the bureau findings reported 68 drinks contained methanol," he noted, adding that the pattern is worrying.

Independent tests

As a result, he said, the agency is seeking to enlist the services of an international firm that will be conducting independent tests on all alcoholic products in the country going forward to end what he terms as confusion.

Efforts to get a comment from the standard's authority quality assurance office on the matter were unsuccessful as we were informed that all officers were out of office.

NAIROBI SECURITIES EXCHANGE

Last 12 Mths		Security		Prices	
High	Low	Yesterday	Previous	Shares	
Agricultural					
36.75	21.00	Eaagads Ord 1.25	34.50	34.50	200
180.00	80.00	Kakuzi Ord 5.00	175.00	173.00	2,700
167.00	110.00	Kapchorua Tea Co Ord 5.00		135.00	
670.00	450.00	The Limuru Tea Co. Ord 20.00		670.00	
30.00	16.20	Rea Vipingo Plantations Ord 5.00		27.50	
19.95	11.25	Sasini Ltd Ord 1.00	15.40	15.95	9,600
350.00	210.00	Williamson Tea Kenya Ord 5.00		288.00	
Automobiles & Accessories					
50.00	21.00	Car & General (K) Ord 5.00		45.00	
-	-	CMC Holdings Ord 0.50		13.50	
13.50	8.00	Marshalls (E.A.) Ord 5.00		9.00	
9.40	4.50	Sameer Africa Ord 5.00	7.80	7.80	14,500
Banking					
19.15	15.00	Barclays Bank Ord 0.50	16.95	16.95	106,700
155.00	62.50	CFC Stanbic of Kenya Holdings Ord.5.00	128.00	128.00	662,000
250.00	141.00	Diamond Trust Bank Ord 4.00	236.00	246.00	3,300
51.00	29.50	Equity Bank Ord 0.50	45.75	45.25	936,700
51.00	22.00	Housing Finance Co Ord 5.00	45.00	45.25	48,300
147.00	85.00	I & M Holdings Ltd Ord 1.00	138.00	140.00	16,500
55.00	35.50	KCB Ord 1.00	54.50	54.50	6,045,900
39.25	18.50	NBK Ord 5.00	28.50	28.75	36,700
68.00	48.50	NIC Bank Ord 5.00	61.00	61.00	17,100
340.00	271.00	StandardChartered Ord 5.00	312.00	309.00	9,300
25.00	14.50	Co-op Bank of Kenya Ord 1.00	19.05	19.05	548,200
Commercial & Services					
8.00	3.40	Express Ord 5.00	6.70	7.00	5,500
-	-	Hutchings Biemer Ord 5.00		20.25	
14.70	8.30	Kenya Airways Ord 5.00	10.20	10.25	122,800
18.00	5.00	Longhorn Kenya Ord 1.00	16.05	16.00	6,800
400.00	271.00	Nation Media Group Ord.2.50	308.00	308.00	2,000
247.00	42.50	ScanGroup Ord.1.00	48.00	46.00	223,800
39.00	24.50	Standard Group Ord 5.00	34.25	35.25	4,400
56.50	32.00	TPS EA (Serena) Ord 1.00	36.75	36.75	11,100
24.00	11.00	Uchumi Supermarket Ord 5.00	12.10	12.10	446,600
Construction & Allied					
98.50	60.00	ARM Cement Ord 1.00	80.00	79.00	54,500
225.00	170.00	BamburiCement Ord 5.00	175.00	175.00	700
100.00	75.00	Crown Paints Kenya Ord 5.00	100.00	100.00	200
18.00	13.50	E.A.Cables Ord 0.50	16.45	16.45	136,900
110.00	56.50	E.A.Portland Cement Ord 5.00	75.00	78.00	1,100
Energy & Petroleum					
17.90	8.70	KenGen Ord 2.50	9.35	9.20	96,500
11.80	7.90	KenolKobil Ltd Ord 0.05	8.20	8.25	542,000
20.75	12.85	KP&LC Ord 2.50	12.95	13.00	275,900
-	-	KP&LC 4% Pref.20.00		8.00	
5.50	5.50	KP&LC 7% Pref.20.00		5.50	
28.75	12.65	Total Kenya Ord 5.00	23.00	23.50	1,600
25.00	13.00	Umeme Ltd Ord 0.50	20.00	19.00	1,000
Insurance					
24.00	7.30	British American Investments Co.0.10	23.50	23.50	1,843,600
12.20	4.20	CIC Insurance Group Ord.1.00	7.95	8.30	865,500
424.00	217.00	Jubilee Holdings Ord 5.00	381.00	381.00	4,600
21.00	13.10	Kenya Re Corporation Ord 2.50	18.00	18.05	360,000
23.00	9.20	Liberty Kenya Holdings Ord 1.00	17.85	17.80	100,700
145.00	51.50	Pan Africa Insurance Ord 5.00	129.00	126.00	300
Investment					
49.00	17.05	Centum Investment Co Ord 0.50	47.75	47.00	1,690,000
6.40	3.50	Olympia Capital Holdings Ord 5.00	5.30	4.90	300
37.75	20.00	Trans-Century Ltd Ord 0.50	24.25	23.00	1,002,900
Manufacturing & Allied					
-	-	A.Baumann & Co. Ord 5.00		11.10	
190.00	100.00	B.O.C Kenya Ord 5.00	145.00	148.00	100
699.00	521.00	British American Tobacco Kenya Ord 10.00	680.00	650.00	6,500
67.50	27.50	Carbacid Investments Ord 5.00	27.25	27.75	35,600
426.00	212.00	East African Breweries Ord 2.00	299.00	292.00	96,700
4.00	1.90	Eveready EA Ord 1.00	3.25	3.45	5,100
9.45	4.40	Kenya Orchards Ord 5.00		10.25	
5.05	2.30	Mumias Sugar Co. Ord 2.00	2.45	2.40	2,603,200
38.50	14.00	Unga Group Ord 5.00	32.25	32.25	6,200
Telecommunication & Technology					
13.40	6.15	Safaricom Ltd Ord. 0.05	12.45	12.20	6,180,000
Growth & Enterprise Market Segment (GEMS)					
25.00	3.50	Home Afrika Ltd Ord. 1.00	3.30	3.35	3,230,900
NSE All Share Index(NASI)-(1 Jan 2008=100 Up 1.49 points to close at 153.18					
NSE 20 Share Index Up 36.19 points to close at 4942.28 Equity Turnover- 812,022,433 Prv- 723,983,473					
BANK RATES					
		Euro	\$	£	C\$ SF IR JY ZR
BANK					
ABC	buy	117.44	87.70	148.08	- 96.45 1.44 86.45 8.15
	sell	117.75	87.90	148.46	- 96.72 1.45 85.51 8.21
Barclays	buy	117.44	87.80	148.05	80.32 96.45 1.44 85.20 8.18
	sell	117.88	88.00	148.87	80.65 96.65 1.44 85.56 8.21
Co-op	buy	117.75	87.95	148.41	80.35 96.51 1.41 85.24 7.92
	sell	117.75	87.95	148.41	80.58 96.79 1.41 85.47 8.20
Equity	buy	118.16	87.75	149.00	81.76 97.27 1.46 86.22 8.34
	sell	118.44	87.95	149.36	81.98 97.51 1.47 86.43 8.36
NBK	buy	148.07	87.50	148.07	80.22 96.29 1.45

NAIROBI & UPCOUNTRY

PERSONAL NOTICES

A109 Lost

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A116 Marriage

ARE you lonely, need a soul mate sms the word LOVE to 20902

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FANTANELA Parlour. 0722789281

INDIAN'S Aroma 0722108363

NEW Upperhill Aroma 0720-701703

PARKLANDS pedi 0722763034

ROYAL in Ngong rd 0700380821

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ZINAT parlour - 0722795917

A202 Entertainment

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BEAUTIFUL lady dancers @the party @ club Caldino 2nite, 3rd flr China centre, Ngong Rd. Apple Bees Dancers @ Club Elegance parklands Rd opp MP Shah Hosp nxt 2 shell

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A244 Herbal Medicine

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A279 Notices

COLGATE PALMOLIVE PROVIDENT FUND

Notice is hereby given of the Annual General Meeting of the Colgate-Palmolive Provident Fund for the Year Ended 31st December 2013 will be held on Friday, 22nd August 2014 from 2.30 to 4.00 pm. All members of the Scheme are requested to attend.

Location: The conference room, Colgate-Palmolive East Africa offices. 6th Floor, Hanover Tower, 14 Riverside Drive, Nairobi.

Agenda:

1. To review and adopt minutes from last year's AGM, receive the Chairman's report, report on investments
2. To review and adopt the Fund's 2013 accounts, Auditor's report and fix the Trustees remuneration
3. To appoint auditors for the year 2014 and allow Trustees to fix their remuneration
4. To review items of 'Any other Business' which may have been received by the Chairman prior to Thursday, 14th August 2014

Question and Answer session

Chairman of the Trustees Board

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Physical Planning Act (Cap. 286) Change of user

The registered owner of Parcel number **Gakawa/Kahurua/Block 11/60** intends to change use of the property from agricultural to **Business cum residential** subject to approval by the County Government of Nyeri. Individuals, Institutions, etc with objections to the proposal are requested to forward them in writing within (14) days from the date of this notice to:

The County Secretary,
County Government of Nyeri
P.O. Box 1112, Nyeri

PETS & LIVESTOCK

A988 Dogs & Dog Training

ROTWEILER pups 0711391811 Kim

B001 Livestock

KIMLAND Dairy cows/ heifers Githunguri Kbu 0724827256

B015 Poultry

AUTO Imported Incubators 1056, 528, 352Eggs cheap 0722851228

Incubators 528 @50k 0716961018

TURKEYS for sale 0701897469

COMMERCIAL

B462 Business for Sale

HOSPITAL 4sale @900k 0718169514

B476 Business Opportunities

COSMETICS Manufacturing Co with a fast moving brand in Hair & Skin care, requires distributors in all 47 counties. Requirements: Have at least 200sqft warehouse 1 Ton vehicle Call 0704316367

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A864 Jewellery

GOLD: We buy cash 3,300/= pure per gram. Also Silver, Platinum. Westlads or Town 0700743299, 0700654565

WHERE TO STAY

CLASSIFIEDS

RATES

Motoring / Property Classifications: VAT Inclusive

All Days 450/= per line per day

Beauty/Medical/Health/Herbal & Acupuncture Sections

All Days 550/= per line per day

SEMI DISPLAY (BOXED CLASSIFIED)

All Days 2,000/= per centimetre column +VAT

Minimum size 4cm x 1 column

Beauty/Medical/Health/Herbal & Acupuncture Sections

All Days 2,100/= per centimetre column +VAT

Minimum size 4cm x 1 column

DNA Voucher Fee 2,500/-

BUREAU OFFICES

Mombasa

Furaha Plaza, Ground floor,
Nkuruma Road, P.O.BOX 80708
Tel: 0732 138 900, 0719 038 900, 020 328 8900.
0734 333 385, 0722 200 770, 041 222 5479
Fax 2230264 Fax (057) 2020388 Kisumu

Nakuru

C.K. Patel Building, Kenyatta Avenue
Te (051) 2215506, 2215740, 2211688

Kisumu

Mega Plaza, 3rd flr, Wing B
Tel: (057) 2021699, 2021230

Eldoret

Zion Mall,
Wing C, Tel: 0722 200 773
0719038950/1

Nyeri

Kona Hauthi House, P.O. BOX 1396,
Tel: (061) 2030640,
Tel/Fax: (061) 2034120

ADVERTISING COLLECTION POINTS

THIKA

Jopaka Enterprises
Jogoo Kimakia Building

Patrick Kamau: 0725856687

Email:jopakathika@yahoo.com

Mbambo Communications

Clairbourn Building, Uhuru Street
along Kwame Nkruma Road
Room No.A7, Maggie: 0722755823

Email: thiika.nationagency@mbambu.com

EMBU

Peterson Stationers/Bookshop

County Council ADC House

Peter Kangugi: 0722894910

Email: pkpkangugi@yahoo.com

Admedia International Ltd,

Ngiuvi House, 1st Floor, Rm 02

Above Mbuni Dry Cleaners

Silas Nthiga: 0722357028/020 2114546

Email: advertisemedia@yahoo.com

KAKAMEGA

Friends Communication

Ambewe Complex, 2nd Flr, Rm 6,

Wycliffe Irangi 0722375680

Email:Irangi70@yahoo.com

AM ENTERPRISES:

Bungoma County

AM Enterprises Ltd

Nasombi House, Moi Avenue

Opposite Bungoma County Assembly

P.O. Box 2502

Call Chrissi Masinde

Tel. 055 30161

Cell: 0721 526154

KITUI

Chief Kitonga Building, Biashara Street,

1st Floor, Room 6. P.O. Box 8 - 90200 Kitui

Pinnacle News Agency: 0720922438.

Email: titusma57@yahoo.com

NAIVASHA/NYAHURU

Njabini Service Station

Tel: 0713 375405/0723019528

Email: Njabinistation@gmail.com/njabini09@gmail.com

MWIYENDI PRONTO SERVICES

Wadi Plaza along Kilungya street, Kitui town,

Room G8 behind Bondeni Pharmacy,

Email: mwiyendip.services@gmail.com

Winnie Mwende 0726384400 and 0736286593.

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We the family of the late Muema Kimenye give thanks to the Almighty God for the years He granted us with Tabitha Mutile Muema.

Tabitha was loving Mum, Granny and a friend to many. She brought joy and laughter into our lives.

We wish to express our heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to The Management of Machakos Health Care Centre, A.I.C Katoloni, A.I.C Kathonzweni, A.I.C Ndunguni - Kikumini, Redeemed Gospel Church Mlolongo Kikumini and to all our relatives, friends, neighbours and all well wishers for their overwhelming support through prayers, words of encouragement and the financial contribution.

Thank you and may God bless you all. Psalms 111:4

Appreciation

Victor Omondi Andedo

We the family of the late Jeconiah Andedo Odalo of Siwandhe Village, Ukwala, Siaya County would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to God for having given to us Victor Omondi Andedo who passed on suddenly on 7th March, 2014 and was buried on 15th March 2014 in Chicago USA.

We acknowledge with great humility the messages of sympathy and tributes together with the generous contributions and spiritual support received from relatives, friends and well-wishers. We remember the late Mordecai Thomas Onono who was then alive for his wise advice and contribution. We thank KQ Finance Dept for their prayers, encouragement and support, St Catherine of Alexandria Church, Nairobi South C for the Mass for the repose of Victor's soul on 15th March 2014, Toyota Financial Services Aurora IL for all the efforts made on 5th March 2014 to save Victor's life. We are touched by these kind gestures.

We cannot mention all names for lack of space, but wish to recognize the funeral Committee and teams in Chicago IL and South Bend IN, Pastor Angel Escamilla and Calvary Church Naperville, Nesbitt Wesonga, Melvin Munsaka, Bosco Sitati, Masinge Nyumbu, John Paul Okinda, Steven Wesonga, Lubasi Kekelwa, Don Owino, Dan, Tim and Mario Andedo for their roles leading to the celebration of Victor's life in Chicago.

Victor was the son of the late Erastus Oduor Andedo of Ugenya and Phillomenah Okado daughter of the late Petro Ongare Mudhay of Alego Komenya Siaya. Victor leaves behind his wife Walusiku the daughter of Dr Inyambo & Dr. Mutinta Nyumbu of Western Province Zambia, his daughter Sepo and twin sons Jeremy and Joshua who came 2 weeks after his burial.

SATURDAY NATION Sport



2014 AFRICA CUP OF NATIONS | Lesotho's Crocodiles in the country

Belligerent Stars keep focus

Aware they must win by at least two clear goals to advance, suspended coach Amrouche reveals Kenyans will see a very aggressive squad on the pitch tomorrow

BY CELLESTINE OLILO
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Lesotho better reconsider their plans if they think they will have it easy in Nairobi for their return 2015 African Cup of Nations qualifier against Kenya.

Adel Amrouche, clearly spoiling for a fight, yesterday admitted Stars performed badly in their 1-0 loss in Maseru a fortnight ago but added things will be different tomorrow at Nyayo Stadium where the do-or-die match will be held.

"In the first leg we had good possession for almost the entire game, but we gave them a chance to score and we cannot afford to do that this time round. This is a must-win match and I have instructed my players to be very, very aggressive throughout the match," he said.

Amrouche said that while his one-year Caf suspension will make the clash against Lesotho an unusually high pressure match, all that will matter is winning.

The Belgian coach, who was accused of spitting at a match official during Stars away match to Comoros, expressed confidence that he had the players who would reverse the 0-1 deficit Stars carry for the return leg.

The match will kick-off at 4pm.

"The morale in the camp is very high. The players are confident even though I will not be in sight. All that matters is that we qualify to the next round. The players are ready to deliver," he

said.
The players, it seems, are straining on their leashes to have a go at Lesotho's Crocodiles.

"We are well prepared and training very hard. We have adjusted well to the news that the coach will not be with us at the touchline so there is no pressure at all. We are just waiting for the game so we can deliver a win for the country," said former AFC Leopards midfielder Peter "Pinchez" Opiyo.

Lesotho's Crocodiles, including first leg goal scorer Bushy Moletsane, goalkeeper Kananelo Makhooane and prolific striker Mohau Kuenane arrived very early yesterday morning, and held their first training session at the Ruaraka Stadium in the



CHRIS OMOLLO | NATION
Harambee Stars midfielder Peter Opiyo trains with the national team at Safaricom Kasarani Stadium on Thursday. Kenya face Lesotho tomorrow in their return Africa Cup of Nations tie trailing 1-0.

Champs Co-op Bank face showdown with Terrorists

BY CAXTON APOLLO
[aayienga@yahoo.co.uk](#)

Basketball Premier League men champions Co-operative Bank will seek all four points to move to the top of the table standings in their two weekend matches in Nairobi.

Today, the bankers, who surprisingly lost their unbeaten record to rivals Ulinzi Warriors 57-58 in a mid-week tie, will start as favourites against Terrorists. The 2pm duel is one of the four fixtures scheduled for Nairobi's Upper Hill School.

Co-op Bank lie second on the 16-team table standing with 25 points from 12 wins and one loss.

Tomorrow, Co-op Bank will face Nairobi Aviation College at Nyayo Stadium starting at 10.30am. Victory in the two important outings will see Co-op Bank topple Tigers of the USIU-A from the summit with 29 points.

Tigers, who beat Strathmore University (54-46) in their last assignment head the competition after garnering 26 points from 12 wins and two losses.

58-57

Ulinzi Warriors shock win against Co-op Bank in a recent mid-week league tie

Terrorists, handled by Eugene Genga, and Nairobi Aviation College will have a tall order to stop the basket-hungry Co-op Bank. Stars Titus Musembi, Allan Ouma and James Mwangi of Co-op Bank will approach their opponents with caution after surrendering their unbeaten record to Ulinzi Warriors (57-58).

Today, Lions will take on Thunder in a match expected go either way.

Ikapian Juma's Lions, who have been performing poorly, recovered to beat Equity Bank (41-38). Thunder, who will be spearheaded by Griffins Ligare and Nelson Njau, have won six matches and lost eight. Both teams need victory to improve on their position in the league.

Kenya Ports Authority men's team will entertain Blazers today at Upper Hill School before they meet Terrorists at Nyayo tomorrow.

VENUS TOPPLES BIRTHDAY GIRL AZARENKA FROM WTA TOURNEY

Seven-time Grand Slam champion Venus Williams ousted fourth-seeded birthday girl Victoria Azarenka in straight sets yesterday to reach the quarter-finals of the WTA hardcourt tournament at Stanford.

Homeboyz team to beat at Kababeri Sevens leg

BY BRIAN YONGA
[byonga@ke.nationmedia.com](#)

good day we can beat any side at the series," a confident Murunga said.

Homeboyz are in Pool D and face varsity lads Blak Blad in their opening tie before facing Kabras and finishing their preliminary matches against Ngong road sides Impala Saracens.

He however warned that other teams will be hard to beat especially if they have the sevens squad players back from the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow.

Hosts Mwamba under new coach John Mbai will be hoping to lead Kulabu to success this season. Mbai replaced Fijian Meli Buli who left the club and moved to Mali on work duty. Mwamba are in Pool C and will battle it out with Strathmore Leos, Nondies and Eldoret for a place in the Cup quarters.

The 2012 champions just like other top clubs will be missing their Kenya Sevens star player including try scoring machine Collins Injera.

ORDER OF PLAY TODAY

9:00 KCB vs Kisumu, 9:21 Western Bulls vs Catholic, 9:42 Quins vs Daystar, 10:03 Nakuru vs Machine, 10:24 Strathmore vs Nondies, 10:44 Mwamba vs Eldoret, 11:04 Homeboyz vs Blakblad, 11:24 Impala vs Kabras, 11:44 KCB vs Catholic, 12:04 W.Bulls vs Kisumu, 12:24 Quins vs Machine, 12:44 Nakuru vs Daystar, 13:40 Strathmore vs Eldoret, 14:00 Mwamba vs Nondies, 14:20 Homeboyz vs Kabras, 14:40 Impala vs Blakblad, 15:00 Kisumu vs Catholic, 15:20 Daystar vs Machine, 15:40 Nondies vs Eldoret, 16:00 Blakblad vs Kabras, 16:25 KCB vs W.Bulls, 16:45 Quins vs Nakuru, 17:05 Strathmore vs Mwamba, 17:25 Homeboyz vs Impala.

KHU LEAGUE

Big-scoring Orange turn glare on KU, Greenshark stalk Jaguars

Kenya Hockey Union league continues this weekend with 11 matches on the cards.

Women champions Telkom Orange take on Kenyatta University at the City Park Stadium tomorrow.

Orange hammered Mt Kenya University 12-0 in their opening game of the season and will be looking to pick up from where they left off when they tackle a Kenyatta University side that failed to honour their match against USIU A last weekend.

The African queens are chasing a record 17th league title.

The attacking trio of Terry Juma, Carol Gucu and Rose

Bulo were in imperious form against MKU tormenting the varsity side's defenders to propel their team to victory.

The three will again lead the attack for Orange as they look to consolidate their lead on top of Pool A. "We got off to a brilliant start and we hope to keep going this weekend," Orange coach Jos Openda said.

Fresh from their impressive victory over defending champions Kenya Police, Greensharks take on Western Jaguars tomorrow in an interesting looking fixture at the City Park stadium aiming to make it two wins in a row.

Roy**Gachuhi**

Roy Gachuhi, a former Nation Media Group sports reporter, writes for The Content House. @contenthouseKE

For our African footballers, east or west, Europe is best

it is not possible to achieve your full potential at home. Think about these football greats: Zinedine Zidane, Eusebio da Silva Ferreira, Patrick Vieira, Marcel Desailly, Claude Makelele, Gerald Asamoah, Just Fontaine, Emmanuel Olisadebe, Jean Tigana and Divock Origi

I am always overcome with sorrow each time I reflect on the incongruence of the enormous amount of blood shed to achieve African independence and the desperation of thousands of Africans in trying their uttermost to seek livelihoods in the same countries whose rule here was unbearable.

From interminable pre-dawn queues in the embassies of our former colonial masters, to superhuman treks across the Sahara – terrain that the Nigerian journalist and publisher Peter Enahoro once described as “some of the most inhospitable places known to man, woman or beast” – to manifestly suicidal crossings of the Mediterranean, it is always a gut-wrenching story of people fleeing the bitter fruits of dependence.

Emmanuel Adebayor, the great Togolese striker of English Premiership side Tottenham Hotspur, described the reasons for his flight from his homeland thus: “When I was going to Europe to play football, I remember what my mother told me at the airport. She said: ‘Manu, you see where we are living. You must go to France and do something good because we need your help’”

Adebayor grew up in an overcrowded, dilapidated slum in the Togolese capital of Lome. It was a neighbourhood of no discernable order, much like the slums that ring Nairobi, and drug-pushing street toughs, burst sewers and murders were the signature features. His mother sold dried fish along the border with Ghana but the returns were barely enough to feed her family. The family was so poor that Adebayor was once detained in hospital for one week because his parents could not afford to pay for the treatment.

Before the 2010 “African World Cup” in South Africa, Adebayor told a journalist writing for *Hopes and Dreams*, Caf’s official book for the tournament: “A lot of people know me as a player on the pitch but they don’t know where I come from or how I began. I will never forget what it was like when I was young. Life was very difficult and I told myself that I only had one chance to survive and that was to be a footballer.”

I remembered Adebayor’s story when news came through that Divock Origi had signed up for English giants Liverpool. Origi is the Belgian son of former Harambee Stars player Mike Okoth, himself now a Kenyan-Belgian. It became compelling when I read Isaac Swila’s interview with Okoth in Thursday’s *Daily Nation*. There

were echoes of Adebayor all over the story. “I am proud as a father to see my son play in a top league. I wanted to achieve this dream but I couldn’t but I am glad that through God this has been possible. I will now pray that all goes well until he makes his debut with the Reds,” Okoth told Swila.

This is the simple – and abysmally sad – statement: That it is not possible to achieve your full potential at home. For Divock Origi to bloom to his full abilities, the platform can only be Europe, not the land of his father. And to nail it irrevocably, this land has to be England, just like for Adebayor it had to be France, the country of the former colonial master.

Think about these football greats: Zinedine Zidane, Eusebio da Silva Ferreira, Patrick Vieira, Marcel Desailly, Claude Makelele, Gerald Asamoah, Just Fontaine, Emmanuel Olisadebe and Jean Tigana.

Zidane was born in Marseille, France to African parents like Origi, in his case Algerian. ‘Zizou’ is now a French legend, having won the World Cup for France in 1998 when he also became World Player of the Year. He would achieve this feat again in 2000 and 2003. His transfer from Juventus to Real Madrid in 2001 resulted in a world record transfer fee of \$66 million (\$h 5.8 billion).

Eusebio was born in Mozambique in 1942 and helped Portugal to a third place finish in the 1966 World Cup where his nine goals made him the tournament’s top scorer. The ‘Black Panther’, or ‘Black Pearl’ or ‘Rei’ (the King) was the 1965 European Footballer of the Year and his 15 year career with Benfica (1960-1975) brought him 10 league championships and five domestic cup titles. A statue of him adorns the entrance to Benfica’s Estadio da Luz Stadium in Lisbon.

Patrick Vieira was born in Senegal and after Thierry Henry, is Arsenal’s greatest player. He played 406 games for the Gunners; in the process helping them win three Premier League titles – including one unbeaten season – and three FA Cups.

Marcel Desailly was born in Ghana and became the first player to win the European Champions League Cup with two different clubs in consecutive seasons when he took it with Olympique Marseille in 1993 and AC Milan the following year. He was a permanent fixture in France’s defence and was a World Cup winner in 1998 and European Championship in 2000. He would later captain Les Blues after the retirement of current coach Didier Deschamps.

Emmanuel Olisadebe was born in Nigeria and started his career there. Then he moved to Poland in 1997 and signed for Polonia Warsaw who he helped win the Polish league for the first time in their history with 47 goals in 106 games. He was granted Polish citizenship and scored eight goals for his new country in the 2002 World Cup qualifiers.

Jean Tigana was born in Mali and gained world fame in the 1982 World Cup as part of France’s redoubtable mid-field quartet of Michel Platini, Alain Giresse and Luis Fernandez. They were christened ‘The Magic Square’. They helped France win the 1984 European Championship. Tigana belongs to the elite players of the world regarded as superstars never to have won a World Cup.

Claude Makelele was born in the DR Congo and made a great career with Chelsea, Nantes, Marseille and Real Madrid. Gerald Asamoah, born in Ghana, became the first black player to turn out for a unified Germany in the World Cup when he donned their colours in 2006. And Just Fontaine, born in Morocco, immortalized himself in World Cup folklore when he scored 13 goals for France in the 1958 World Cup in Sweden.

This is the tradition that Divock Origi has followed. Going by the facts above and given his age, Origi will in all probability – barring anything untoward – become a world superstar.

We all must join together and wish him the very best of fortune. He is so lucky that he is not stuck in Africa where his career would almost certainly be stunted before it even begins. You die a thousand times for making this statement but truth sets us free, doesn’t it? I wish it was otherwise. But if wishes were horses...

There is a sequel to the story I told you last week about the 1982 Commonwealth Games in Brisbane, Australia and my encounter with a raging athletics head coach Kipchoge Keino. He was fuming over the inefficiencies of his then bosses at the Kenya Amateur Athletics Association, precursor to today’s Athletics Kenya. In light of what happened before Glasgow 2014 started, I feel duty bound to share it.

The 1982 team turned in a modest performance. It placed ninth overall with four gold, two silver and four bronze medals. As Africa went, it ranked second to Nigeria who were ranked seventh.

As expected, officials stridently defended their performance. Prof. Sam Ongeri, then the chairman of



the KAAA, had this to say: “There is nothing wrong with what we have done. There is a need for people to understand what is going on. What we are having is an entirely new generation of athletes who are slowly taking over from the generation that did the country so much honour in 1974 and 1978.”

“It is necessary for people to understand that this is the first time that Kenya is participating in major Games since 1978. Traditionally, we have two years of major international competition; in 1970 we had the Commonwealth Games, then

PHOTO | FILE
Divock Origi of Belgium celebrates his goal against Russia at the 2014 Fifa World Cup at the Maracana Stadium in Brazil on June 22.

Divock Origi will in all probability – barring anything untoward – become a world superstar. We all must join together and wish him the very best of fortune

CONTINUED ON PAGE 49

Murithi



Mutiga

Sideshows

You want more medals? Glory? Easy, just invest in modern sports facilities

Cycling is one of the fields in which the country would do better if the facilities were available. But as we know from the story of Chris Froome, who had to move to South Africa and later England to find the facilities that paved the way to his eventual success, the Commonwealth Games team's preparations have been far from ideal

A wonderful video doing the rounds on the Internet shows the first time cocoa bean farmers tasted chocolate, the thing that companies in Europe make out of their raw beans.

"It is so sweet!" "This is wonderful!" "Now you see why white men are so healthy!" they exclaim. (Never mind the fact chocolates are not the healthiest of food choices)

The wide-eyed surprise of the farmers summarises a problem with Africa which is put on display every time a major competition such as the Olympics, World Championships or the Commonwealth Games comes around.

We thrive on raw talent and invest very little in value addition. The farmers in Cote d'Ivoire frankly told their TV interviewer that they don't know what cocoa beans are for. They just sell them to a broker.

That's because the West Africans have never thought of using their dominant position as key producers of cocoa beans to insist that production of chocolates should be hosted in that part of the world.

In sports, our collective failure to move a step forward from raw, God-given talent is put on vivid display in events such as the Commonwealth Games.

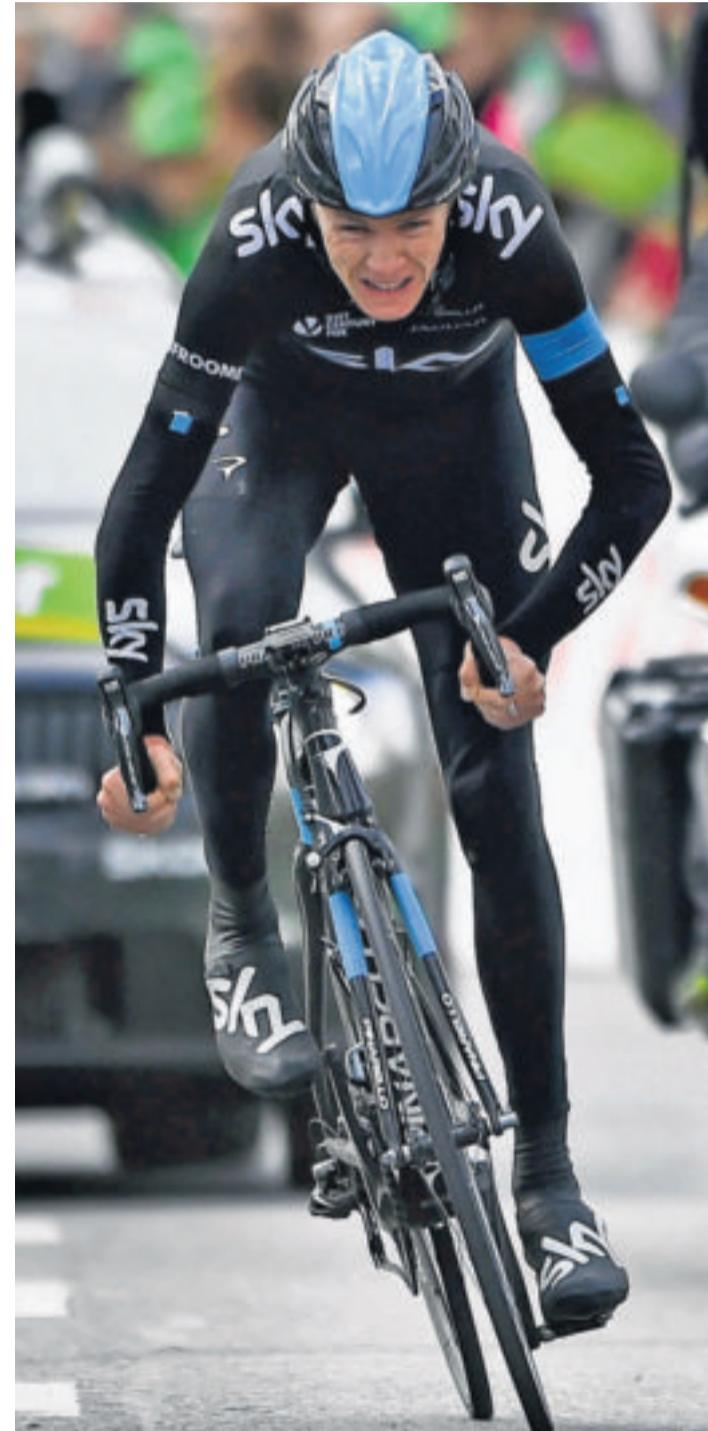
The medals that Africans claim at these championships almost exclusively come in those disciplines that require nothing beyond pure personal talent. You can wake up and run up and down the hills every morning, so whether a federation invests in athletics infrastructure or not, it is likely that if you are talented and hard working, you can earn gold and make a name for yourself.

Serious force

When it comes to disciplines such as hockey, badminton, gymnastics, netball, diving and others, the winners come almost exclusively from industrialised societies where they have disciplined sports associations that invest in facilities for their teams and don't just depend on raw talent.

In a sense, we will know that Africa is maturing and developing into a serious force on the world stage when we see countries such as Kenya, Botswana and Nigeria winning medals in fields outside athletics.

The fiasco surrounding the late payment of allowances, a crisis which Roy Gachui explained on these pages has been the routine in every event for the last 30 years, shows where the problem lies. Sports association officials prefer to line their own pockets with the annual funds they receive



FILE PHOTO

from the International Olympic Committee (IOC) rather than investing in young sportsmen and women.

The accounts statement for 2005, for example, shows that the National Olympic Committee of Kenya (Nock) paid executives an annual gratuity of Sh2.3 million while giving associations Sh1.3 million.

These problems are covered up by the gallant performance of the athletes on the track, but they must be confronted if Kenya is to take the next step as a sports power-house and win in the many events we can thrive in with a little more investment.

Cycling is one of the fields in which the country would do better if the facilities were available. Tomorrow, three Kenyans, John

Britain's Kenyan-born cyclist Chris Froome at the finish of the third stage, Bouveret to Aigle, of the Tour de Romandie cycling race on May 2 in Aigle. Froome moved to the UK after facing frustrations in Kenya.

Njoroge, Suleiman Kangangi and Paul Ajiko, will take on some of the world's best cyclists in the road race through the streets of Glasgow. But as we know from the story of Chris Froome, who had to move to South Africa and later England to find the facilities that paved the way to his eventual success, their preparations have been far from ideal.

They trained without a mechanic for their bikes in Kenya and their time-trial bikes arrived in Glasgow only last week.

But theirs is a typical story of determination to race against the odds and they have attracted some media attention with the *Guardian* running a profile of the racing trio. They honed their skills in everyday pursuits without anticipating they could find their way to a major championship. Njoroge, a milk man from Naivasha, for example, learnt to cycle as part of his job delivering 60kg of milk every morning over long distances.

"I was working very hard. My body was used to the heavy weight and I liked to ride at high speeds. When I heard about the Kenyan Riders team, I trained as much as I could to ensure that I could join them. Cycling for Kenya is my dream." As ever, their talents were shaped by foreigners, including Nick Leong, a former Singaporean photographer who moved to Iten and formed Kenyan Riders, the country's first professional cycling team, who have 11 riders.

Kenyan culture

Their coach, Simon Blake argues the sport could be dominated by Africans in a decade with a bit of investment. "Bicycles are part of the Kenyan culture but so far they are used only as a utility tool," he says.

"There is no established racing scene in Kenya and racing there is at such a low level compared to where we want to be in the future. We have to go abroad for practice but unfortunately that costs heaps of money."

The raw talent exists, however, and Blake says there is more to come. "The world has to watch out. In five to 10 years it will be Africans dominating the big Tours."

That will happen only if officials stop lining their pockets and invest in the talent that abounds on the African continent.

David Rudisha did not manage to secure the Commonwealth gold he had craved and which the crowd in Glasgow clearly hoped he would, going by the huge roar which greeted his name on Thursday night.

The great man is recovering from an injury and is feeling his way back into full fitness. But it is a source of concern that Nijel Amos of Botswana seems to have found a way to beat him by waiting out his initial burst of pace and sprinting in the last 100 metres.

Considering how tactical the 800m race is, might Rudisha consider widening his coaching team to see how to improve his finish ahead of Rio 2016? Amos has clearly benefited from his training regime with the famed Jean Verster at the FNB High Performance Institute in South Africa and to consolidate his place in the history books, Rudisha will want to ensure he finds an answer to the challenge from Amos and the Ethiopian who did not run in Glasgow, Mohammed Aman, a 20-year-old with designs on King Rudisha's crown.

Africa's best the gain of other nations

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 48

flung open on arrival. The team was on national duty and orders were that its members were not to be subjected to any customs check. Customs officials watched awestruck as delegation members strained behind mountainous trolleys. I wrote about it, opening my story with this stinging observation: "What the athletes couldn't do on the track, they abundantly made up for in shopping."

The following day, the team went to State House, Nairobi for the traditional ceremony of returning the national flag that the President had given them before departure. Kip spied me in the press corps and drew me aside. He said to me:

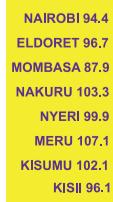
"Roy, I read your story today. I think you were very unfair to us. All those things you wrote were true; the problem is with your insinuations. It is as if we did something wrong. It is true that we did a lot of shopping. But whose money were we using? It was our money! We did shopping with the allowances that we were given and those allowances were ours by right! What would you yourself do with your own money? Wouldn't you spend it the way you like? What is wrong with what we did?"

He went on a bit until somebody motioned to him that the ceremony was about to begin. He went away but not before complaining bitterly one more time that I had been unfair and that I should not use "your newspaper to malign us."

On reflection, I thought he had point. Indeed, you do what you please with your money. Fair enough. How ironic then, that somebody who argued so passionately and so logically and so correctly about the right of athletes to enjoy their dues is now at the head of a National Olympic Committee that has been accused of withholding the same allowances for which he once was the best advocate. What changed?

Kenyan athletes to the 20th Commonwealth Games are doing fine. But the country must, at some point, take a hard look at how athletics is run in this country. It must distinguish between the extraordinary personal sacrifices made by individual athletes and the perfidy of officials who prey on them. Kenya's athletes win despite and not because of their officials. Let great performances on the track not lull us into the malfeasance that afflicts the sport.

- gachuiroy@gmail.com



HARAMBEE STARS
vs
LESOTHO

Jumapili Hii Kuanzia Saa 10 Jioni

Pata matangazo ya mechii ya kufuzu kwa kombe la mataifa bingwa barani Afrika ndani ya QFM ukiwa na Rashid, Apopo, Haji na Rianga'





20th Commonwealth Games, GLASGOW 2014 (JULY 23-AUGUST 3)



NOTEBOOK

WASTE DISPOSAL

Home refuse neatly labelled for collection

Glasgow residents have been noted for their warmth and enthusiasm for the games. But they are also very mindful of their environment. Their town has put up restrictions and campaigns to jealously guard their environment. Residents have a unique garbage disposal system. Each homestead has three dustbins that are clearly labelled for easy disposal and sampling by the garbage collectors. The bins are labelled Compostable packaging, Recycling and Non-Recyclables, which makes it easy for separation at the recycling plants.

UNEXPECTED TURN

Doping costs Nigeria's Olarinoye CWF post

Nigerian physician Steve Olarinoye had high hopes of being elected member of the Commonwealth Weightlifting Federation executive committee when he landed in Glasgow. Olarinoye, who is the president of Nigeria Weightlifting Federation, had done his homework well for a strong campaign, giving out campaign literature that elucidated his vision for the sport. However, as fate would have it, his efforts were in vain after Nigerian teenager Chika Amalah, at 16 the youngest female weightlifter, failed a doping test. Observers say this cost him the election.

HOW CONVENIENT

Shopping? Just pick, swipe and walk away

I wonder how many supermarkets in Kenya can introduce self-service facilities for customers at their stores.

To reduce cases of long queues in shops and supermarkets here in Glasgow, customers are allowed to use their credit cards to pay for their goods, place them in paper bags after purchase and depart without the attention of the store owner nor supervision.

It is a system that relies on trust it seems.

I wonder what would happen if such a system was introduced in Kenya. Supermarkets would quickly run out of business as Kenyans collected goods and sneaked away without paying.

HOME SICK

We miss sukuma wiki and ugali, say athletes

Some Team Kenya athletes are now home-sick after over two weeks stay in Glasgow. Could it be because of the food? Some have described the food being served at the Games village "tasteless" and "flat". I miss my ugali and sukuma wiki," said Kenya's 400m champion and 2010 Africa 400m hurdles bronze medallist Maureen Jelagat. But they will be away from home longer as most will head to Marrakesh, Morocco for the Africa Championships.

Compiled by Ayumba Ayodi

TRACK QUEEN | I will be on the podium... I know the colour of the medal that my heart desires, she says

Cherono leads strong team in

World silver medallist hot favourite for glory as Wangare and Kisa complete Kenyan cast



BY AYUMBA AYODI
in Glasgow

World 5,000m silver medallist Mercy Cherono has been in great form this season such that she's easily expected to win her specialty today at the Hampden Park.

"I love the way my body has been responding since the start of the season and I feel more energetic," said Cherono as she braces to guide Margaret Wangare, who is making a comeback from an injury and Janet Kisa.

"I know I will be on the podium. I also know the colour of the medal that my heart desires," said Cherono, who has won two Diamond League events this season in New York and Lausanne.

Cherono is pleased on her steady progress from junior to senior ranks. After she won the World Junior 3,000m gold in 2008 in Bydgoszcz, she followed it up with junior silver from the 2009 World Junior Cross Country in Jordan ahead what would be the most successful year as a junior in 2010.

After bagging the World Junior Cross Country gold on her return to Bydgoszcz, Cherono became the first woman to retain the 3000m junior title in Moncton, Canada, after she held off a challenge from Emebet Anteneh to become the first gold medallist of the event. She would follow up with silver medal in the 5000m, finishing behind Genzebe Dibaba.

"Injuries are an athlete's nightmare but I thank God for keeping me away from the scare and I am enjoying my game," said Cherono, who won her first major medal as a senior when she finished second behind Meserat Defar at the 2013 World Championships in Moscow. After coming through at Glasgow, Cherono will then garn for the Africa title in championships that

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Kenya's Mercy Cherono (right) leads the 2-Mile race during day 2 of the IAAF Diamond League Nike Prefontaine Classic on May 31 at the Hayward Field in Eugene, Oregon. Cherono is hot favourite to win gold in the 5,000m in Glasgow today.

get under way next week in Morocco. She boast of 5,000m personal best 14:35.13 from Paris 2011.

Wangare has had slow progress after her battle with a nagging hamstring string injury that saw her stretched off the 10,000m final at the 2013 World Championships. "It has been hard for me through the rehabilitation but I am glad that is behind me and I am focused to conjure something for the nation," said

“

I love the way my body has been responding since the start of the season and I feel more energetic. I just want to be on the podium"

Mercy Cherono

Wangare, who won silver at the 2012 Africa Cross before settling for bronze in 5,000m at the 2012 Africa Championships. Wangare has personal best 14:48.94 from 2010.

Kisa, who ran personal best 14:52.59 in Rome this year, is eager to make it to the podium. "We are well prepared and we plan to run as a team and secured a podium sweep," said Kisa, the 2001 World Junior 5,000m silver medallist.

Onyango loses the wrestling bronze to South African opponent

Kenyan wrestler Peter Onyango didn't find time to execute his best moves as he fell to South Africa's Armando Hietbrink in the battle for bronze in men's freestyle 86kg.

Onyango lost 5-0 after Hietbrink brought him down at Secc Hall.

Onyango had lost to Andrew Dick from Nigeria 0-4 in the quarterfinals before dropping to the repechage's bronze finals.

Similarly, Jacob Wachira failed to go

past the round of 16 in men's freestyle 65kg, losing to South Africa's Terry van Rensburg 4-0.

Lean Wambui offered little resistance to Briton Chloe Spiteri in women's freestyle 63kg, losing 0-4 as her hopes for the semi-finals went up in smoke.

The only other wrestler to have gone far is Hollis Ochieng, who also reached the bronze finals before bowing out to Chinu Chinu from England

in men's freestyle 125kgs.

In weightlifting, James Adede's run in the men's 105kg saw him finish in 10th overall position at Clyde Auditorium. Weighing 96.99kgs, Adede lifted 91kg in snatch before 125kg in clean and jerk for a total 216kg.

Claimed the silver

Kiribati's David Katoatau reigned supreme to win gold with a total 348kgs after 148kg in snatch and

200kg in clean and jerk. Stanislav Chavalev from New Zealand went for silver with 341kg with 155kg in snatch and 186kg in clean and jerk. Briton Benjamin Watson lifted 337kg for bronze.

Adede is the only lifter who reached bronze finals after Webster Lukose (men's 77kg), Stephen Opondo (men's 85kg) and female lifter Mercy Obiero (69kg) failed to go past the group stages.



20th Commonwealth Games, GLASGOW 2014 (JULY 23-AUGUST 3)



ON THE MEND | I will take part in some selected races this season as I recover from injury, he says

today's charge for 5,000m gold

World 800m record holder Rudisha says he will take it easy for the rest of the season

BY AYUMBA AYODI
sayumba@ke.nationmedia.com

Olympic and World 800m record holder David Rudisha will skip the Africa Championships next week in Marrakech, Morocco.

Rudisha, who won the Africa titles in 2008 Addis Ababa and 2010 Nairobi, said he wants to concentrate on refining his training programme to enable him come back next year well packaged.

"I will decide which selected races I will participate in this season as I continue with recovery," said Rudisha, who lost the Commonwealth Games final to Nijel Amos from Botswana.

Rudisha said he was satisfied with his performance in Glasgow. "The race wasn't so bad other than the rainy and cold weather," Rudisha said. "I am happy with what I have achieved although I wish I could have done better."

Missed many training sessions

Rudisha noted that he has had in rough, having missed many training sessions for a late training programme late in March.

"I need to work on my last 100m since I feel something is lacking and that is why it's all about preparations," Rudisha said.

"My programmes that usually started in November were delayed to March this year since I was undergoing knee injury rehabilitation."

The 49,000-seater Hampden Park that was packed to capacity had waited for the battle of titans pitting Rudisha

“

The race wasn't so bad other than the rainy and cold weather. I am happy with what I have achieved although I wish I could have done better”

David Rudisha



PHOTO | AFP

From left: Kenya's David Rudisha (silver), Botswana's Nijel Amos (gold) and South Africa's Andre Olivier (bronze) pose on the podium during the award ceremony for the men's 800m during the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow on Thursday.

and Nijel.

As usual, Rudisha hit the front with his colleague Fergusson Rotich on toe to locked out their rivals with a superb front running up.

That went on smoothly until the last bend as the crowd erupted. But the boxed Nijel would find his way out of the inner lane before sprinting past the East Africans.

Nijel, who lost to Rudisha at the 2012 London Olympics, clocked 1:45.18 to triumph as the Kenyan settled second in 1:45.48.

Rotich came in fourth in 1:46.09 behind South Africa's Olivier Andre 1:46.03.

It was Rudisha's third defeat at the hands of Nijel after Eugene and Monaco legs of the Diamond League.

"I could have beaten him again but Rudisha is the only man I know in 800m. I always tell him I grow each time I race against him and he is such a gentleman and an inspiration after he came to congratulate me telling me that I am growing up very well," said Nijel adding that he will be a man like

Rudisha the moment he will tack in the World and Olympic titles besides breaking the World record." Rudisha made the 2012 London Olympics so special since almost everybody ran his personal best or broke world or national records.

Rudisha improved his World Record with new time of 1:40.91 when he won the Olympic title as Nijel returned a World Junior and National Record time of 1:41.73 as bronze medallist Anthony Kitum clocked personal best 1:42.53.

TODAY'S PROGRAMME

9pm Women's Pole Vault Final
9.07pm Women's 5000m Final
9.10pm Men's Triple Jump Final
9.20pm Men's Javelin Throw Final
9.35pm Men's 1500m Final
9.50pm Women's 4x400m Relay Final
10.10pm Men's 4x400m Relay Final
10.50pm Women's 4x100m Relay Final
11.15pm Men's 4x 100m Relay Final

MEDAL STANDINGS

Country	G	S	B	Ttl
England	45	43	41	129
Australia	36	37	42	115
Canada	28	13	26	67
Scotland	15	13	17	45
India	13	20	15	48
New Zealand	13	11	15	39
South Africa	12	10	15	37
Nigeria	8	6	11	25
Jamaica	7	4	7	18
Kenya	5	6	3	14
Wales	4	10	16	30
Malaysia	4	6	5	15
Singapore	4	1	2	7
Cyprus	2	4	2	8
Cameroon	1	3	3	7
P. New Guinea	1	1	0	2
Grenada	1	0	1	2
Bostwana	1	0	0	1
Kiribati	1	0	0	1
T. and Tobago	0	2	2	4
Pakistan	0	2	1	3
Samoa	0	2	1	3
Northern Ireland	0	1	3	4
Bahamas	0	1	1	2
Bangladesh	0	1	0	1
Isle of Man	0	1	0	1
Mozambique	0	1	0	1
Nauru	0	1	0	1
Sri Lanka	0	1	0	1
Ghana	0	0	2	2
Namibia	0	0	2	2
Barbados	0	0	1	1
Fiji	0	0	1	1
Mauritius	0	0	1	1
Uganda	0	0	1	1
Zambia	0	0	1	1

Nigerian athlete fails B sample

Glasgow

Nigerian teenage weightlifter Chika Amalaha faces a hearing before the Commonwealth Games Federation yesterday over her failed drugs test.

Amalaha, whose A sample failed a control after claiming gold in the women's 53kg category on July 25, also produced a positive B sample.

The tests revealed traces of diuretics and masking agents.

CGF chief executive Mike Hooper said the follow-up examination backed up the initial finding of the doping control that Amalaha went through after her victory in the 52kg class at the Clyde Auditorium seven days ago.

Hooper said on Friday: "I can report that the analysis on the Nigerian weightlifting Chika Amalaha's B sample has been completed, and this has confirmed the analysis and finding of the A result."

Amalaha snatched a best of 85kg before managing 111kg in the clean and jerk for a total of 196kg, to become the youngest Commonwealth weightlifter gold medallist. (AFP)

Mucheru returns a distant 6th in 400m hurdles

Boniface Mucheru's dream of a podium place fizzled in the rains when he wound up sixth in 49.99 in the men's 400m hurdles final at the Hamden Park.

Cornel Fredricks from South Africa won the race in 48.50 as Gordon Jehue from Trinidad and Tobago went for silver with season's best 48.75 while Jeffrey Gibson set Bahama's new national record time 48.78 for bronze.

"It's not what I expected but I still thank God for making the final. The windy, cold and wet arena just made things difficult," said Mucheru, who had planned to break the two decade standing national record held by Eric Keter of 48.24 set in 1993.

"I am still focused on breaking the record and I hope to do it at the Africa

Championships where the weather will be a bit warmer," said Mucheru, who hopes to go two places better this time around after winning bronze at the 2012 Africa Championships in Benin.

Kenya's representative in 200m, Carvin Nkanata just failed to reach

“

It's not what I expected but I still thank God for making the final. The windy, cold and wet arena just made things difficult"

Boniface Mucheru

the 200m final by a whisker, finishing third in 20.65. Rasheed Dwyer (Jamaica) 20.42 and Akani Simbine (South Africa) 20.53 prevailed to qualify from the semi-final.

"I feel proud to have represented Kenya for the second time this year," said Nkanata, who is based in the USA.

Nkanata, who broke the national record in May this year in the USA with new times of 20.32 set said he is ready to atone for the failures in Glasgow with victory at the Africa Championships in Morocco.

"I want to come out and make the whole of Kenya proud since I have great expectations if I am to make the final," Nkanata said. "I shall continue to represent Kenya."



SPORTS AND INVESTMENT

African medallists win almost entirely through their won sweat observes **Murithi Mutiga** while **Roy Gachuhi** reckons football excellence can only be achieved playing in the west. P. 48-49



Sport

FOOTBALL

AMROUCHE PROMISES AGGRESSIVE PLAY



Kenya polish up game plan against Lesotho in their Africa Nations Cup qualifier. P. 47



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Saturday Nation



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COMMONWEALTH GAMES | Glasgow

Cherono hot favourite for gold tonight

>> World silver medallist leads Kisa, Wangare in battle for 5,000m title

>> Rudisha plans to take it easy for rest of the season to continue recovery

>> Mucheru gives his best in hurdles but returns outside medal bracket

STORIES PAGE 50-51

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From the editor

Nannies have been on my mind lately, especially with a recent turnover of them in my house. It is a difficult experience having to wake up every morning and leave your little one in the hands of someone whose background is provided by the copy of their ID that you hold, and perhaps (if you're really lucky) a certificate of good conduct.

But for many mothers, especially single ones, you really don't have a choice about going to work; money must be made in order for your child to be fed. Not everyone has entrepreneurial talents that can be used to structure a life that is mostly lived at home, and even then, you would still need to leave your baby in someone's care at some point.

Enter the nanny that you probably got from a hole-in-the-wall bureau, from a relative upcountry, from a friend who heard of a friend who knew someone who was looking... you get the drift. You want to take your time with your search, find a nanny with good references, training and a love of children, but half the time you will take what you get because nanny crises have a way of happening on Sunday night before the Monday morning.

So you hope for the best. If you're lucky, your nanny will be a good person who will raise your kids to the best of his or her ability. But every so often you will employ a bad apple; the one who steals all your cash. Or your clothes. The one who drinks the alcohol in your cabinet when they should be watching over baby. The one who leaves baby by herself while she goes out to meet friends. The one who refuses to take your instructions.

Usually, when it rains, it pours; you'll have a good one for three years... and then they will leave for whatever reason, and you will go through a spell where it seems like your house is a revolving door for nannies until you finally find the one who will last and take you through the next three or four years.

Much has been said about the effects of subjecting your children to so many nanny changes – and we explore that topic in our Babylove feature this week – but very often, you don't

have a choice. I suspect that what we need to do is upgrade this sector to a formal and professional one, so that nannies can be taxed, covered, vetted and trained. But I suspect that would then put the average nanny out of the pocket reach of many desperate mothers. That said, we really do need solutions to this huge, huge problem. Email us back and let us know, and in the meantime, enjoy a drama-free Saturday!

Wayua Muli
satmag@ke.nationmedia.com

The nanny sector should be made formal and professional, but this will put nannies out of reach for desperate mums

inside



p12



p20

p10 Trouble with the neighbours

p12 Rwandese flair

p15 Dealing with rejection

18 Can women revive chivalry?

Regulars

Flakes	5
Lizzie's World	8
Woman of Passion	9
Heart Advice	11
Money	17
Leisure	21



p16

EDITOR'S BAROMETER

Five handy food tips

1. Soak brown rice overnight for faster cooking the following day.
2. To get more juice from lemons or oranges, roll them while applying pressure before squeezing, or microwave them for 10 seconds before squeezing.
3. Place pieces of bread on the outer edges of left-over cake to keep it soft and moist.
4. Add a bit of milk and salt to cooking water to keep cauliflower bright and white.
5. To keep fish from falling apart, cook it wrapped in buttered aluminum foil and don't overcook it.



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FEEDBACK

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Disturbing love scams

The main feature by Felista Wangari exposed a worrying trend. Men and women have fallen prey to love scammers. A friend was also robbed (without violence) by someone who had put a personal ad on the soul mates page. She claimed to be a Canadian working at the border of Kenya and Sudan. They planned for a date and on the material day, the woman called to say that she had run out of fuel and the petrol station had refused to accept her Master Card yet she had already fueled. She asked for Sh10,000 to clear the bill, which my friend dutifully sent her. After two hours, the woman called and said that she needed Sh30,000 to be cleared at the border. Again, my friend sent the money to her via Mpesa. After that her phone was switched off and my friend lost his money. From hearing such experiences, I have learnt that it is best to get to know someone really well before you engage in any financial transactions with them.

Calvin Queens, via email

It is unfortunate that Monica (not her real name) lost Sh600,000 through a love scam. Worse still she is being blackmailed and intimidated by the scammer. What a harrowing experience! Women need to be careful about the people they meet on social media; so many women have been taken for a ride by people they thought were friends on social media. Soon after an exciting exchange on Facebook or Twitter the encounters led to tragic ends. Remember, 'All that glitters is not gold.'

Anto Poruthur, via email

Men too have fallen prey of female love scammers. I am always wary of people who claim to hob nob with influential people, popular politicians or those

who claim to work for the UN and other international NGOs. Others use names that are common with Europeans or Americans in a bid to attract their victims. My advice: When the deal is too good, think twice! This will save you from losing your hard-earned money. In addition, never disclose your personal information to online 'friends'; in reality they are strangers.

Stanley Kimutai Waitagei, via email

Conmen are usually so smooth that the woman only realises she has been conned when it is too late. The Bible says that man must sweat to put food on the table, but such men are too lazy and opt for the easy way out – taking advantage of hardworking women. I am glad that the feature highlighted the signs of a predator. I feel sorry for those who were already duped, but women should not be afraid to take legal action against such criminals. This is robbery without violence!

Harriet Kisali, Kakamega

It is good to pay attention to your sixth sense. When something doesn't seem right, it probably isn't and there is no harm in investigating it. It appears that these men target respectful corporate women so such women should be careful to avoid losing colossal amounts of money to predators.

Alnashir D Walji, Nairobi

Don't marry before 30

I disagree with Jackson Biko's letter to a lovelorn reader. I cannot follow Biko's advice because the right time to marry

varies from one man to another. If you don't go to college, chances are that you will marry a few years after you complete high school; and if you have a good job in your twenties, why should you wait to get married after 30? I know people who got married in their late thirties and their relationships are anything but stable!

Moreover, if you wait till your thirties to get married, chances are that you will marry an 'independent' woman and we all know how difficult those can be to tame. What Biko should have advised the guy who wants to get married at 24, is to follow his heart. **Ambasidun, via email**

I agree with Biko, people should take time before they jump into marriage. A 24-year-old is too young for marriage; if one has to marry in his twenties, do so after 26. The other day a 17-year-old woman stabbed her 24-year-old husband because he refused to give her Sh1,000 to buy a

pair of shoes! He died on the spot. People below 30 are kids who are not sure of themselves. They are not mature enough to be married or even parents.

Shelmith, Kerugoya

Who is the better parent?

Joan Thatiah's article on child custody cases struck a cord with me because I recently followed a case that left me wondering if indeed the courts consider the best interests of a child before awarding custody to either the mother or father. My brother's wife abandoned her home for a year in 2012, leaving their two children aged six and eight solely under my brother's care. Later she realised that she could use the children as a cash machine and she filed a suit at the children's court. A few weeks ago, in spite of the children's preference to be with their father and the social services report, she was awarded custody. To add insult to injury, my brother was ordered to pay for the children's expenses as well as give an additional Sh50,000 to his wife every month. All the court asked of her was to contribute to buying half of the clothes the children require. My brother's wife is a party girl and she has a boyfriend, who has been arraigned in court for drug trafficking. Is she really the better parent here? The problem is that magistrates have a standard template for all custody cases regardless of who the better parent is, so many fathers have been shortchanged by the judicial process. **WM, via email**

Falling for the love scammer

Busy, corporate women have become prey for a special kind of man – a man who will tell her sweet nothings until her wallet opens up and he runs off with her money. By Felista Wangari

Peris*, a journalist in her early 30s, finds herself in being the kind of woman who would not easily fall for the tricks of a man. However, two months ago, she almost fell into the trap of a man who was priming her to be one of his victims. The man, whom she first met himself as Donald Okoko, first sought to be her Facebook friend. They began talking and got into a heated discussion on a mutual Facebook page. After that, when Peris started asking him for dates, which she turned down every time, just he got her attention when he mentioned that he was a farmer with greenhouses in Nakuru, growing vegetables exported to the Middle East.

Felipe's interest
The offer was too good. Peris agreed to finally meet this Facebook friend. But what happened in the weeks that followed needs like a storybook. Felipe is one of the new breed of men who are getting romantic interest in women and bait them into giving them money under the pretense of love. These men, whose playground seems to be social media, convince women to loan them money consistently, but they never pay back, leaving their victims broke in many instances.



Send your feedback to satmag@ke.nationmedia.com

THE EXPAT LIFE

How to prepare to move abroad

These days it is easier than ever for Kenyans to find employment opportunities in other countries. Kenyans are renowned for their work ethic, command of English and customer care. If you wish to work out of the country, any of the following skills (in addition to a foreign language) will help you find work easily: Nursing and auxiliary nursing (caregivers), teaching, hospitality, nanny care, lecturing, military work, physiotherapy and science.

Destinations:

Dubai is the easiest place to find work, followed by tourist resort destinations such as The Seychelles, Mauritius, Re-union, Maldives

Islands and Singapore. The countries that issue visas readily are the ones where the majority of workers are expatriates. There are quite a number of Kenyans working in China and South Korea as English teachers. If you wish to work within Africa, Rwanda is a choice destination due to the simplicity of obtaining a work permit. English teachers are currently in great demand due to the switch over from French to English. If you are fluent in both languages, you will be in much demand. Namibia is also in need of trainers and lecturers in almost every field.

How to prepare to go abroad:

It takes approximately one year to prepare financially and psychologically. If you plan to visit a country where the language is foreign, take six months or more to learn it. This is best done while you

are still at home. You will need a return air ticket and money to last at least six months. The Internet is of great use in finding out facts about the country to which you want to relocate. Polish up your act by upgrading your skills and qualifications to international ones. It is cheaper to do this in Kenya than it is abroad. Your computing skills should be up to date in keeping with worldwide technology.



Climate:

First-time visitors to European countries will be shocked at how cold it gets especially in winter. The long hours of day light in summer take some getting used to, while the winter darkness is dreary. For visitors to Dubai in summer, the heat tends to be intense. Therefore, climate considerations are important.

Cost of living:

Different places have varying costs. For instance, India is cheaper than Nairobi, whereas South Africa may be quite costly. It is advisable to find jobs in countries where the cost of accommodation is reasonable. European capitals such as Zurich are the most expensive of all. If possible, you may live with friends or relatives until you are accustomed to the new country.

– IRENE NJOROGE-KRISTIAN
(etiquette lecturer.)

FLAKES: KATE GETAO

The downside of development

You have to be really "analogue" to remember this, but there was a time when we used to take little plastic canisters of film to a studio and pay for them to be converted into shiny square pictures (photos) which we pasted into albums and showed all our friends. We still show photos to all our friends but only after uploading them from our multifunctional phones onto some social media site. In a nutshell, this is development!

Reminiscing about this reminded me that "development" is a "two steps forward, three steps back" kind of affair.

This is usually evident in developed countries where when things are good they are very, very good, but when things are bad, they are rotten!

I am writing this at an airport lounge. I have unsuccessfully tried to leave the United States of America for the last two days. My baggage has already left the country, but despite cloud architecture, big data, enterprise resource planning systems, logistical control systems, the Internet, the intranet, search engines, robots, CCTV, and all the technology at the disposal of this great country, we are unable

to establish exactly where my bags are at this moment!

Yesterday I had to disembark from my American Airways flight because a delay caused me to miss my

connecting flight. And since I did not have a transit visa, had I proceeded on that flight the airline would have been fined \$5,000 (Sh439,250) and I would have been kept in an immigration cage until there was a flight to take me to Kenya.

I was informed that my baggage had also been offloaded but it took a 90-minute wait in a baggage service queue to discover that, on the contrary, since my baggage is used to free travel without visas, it was merrily on its way to the United Kingdom.

The baggage service queue was made up of people tweeting to each other in multiple tongues including Spanish, Russian and Fijian. Most of the bags had huge holes (in hard-sided cases) or rips, in fabric cases. The bags looked more as if they had been on the losing end of a wrestling match than as if they had been gently transferred on and off an aircraft. Despite the long queue and the desperate cases there was only one staff member on duty and therefore each succeeding client first related

their own trials and tribulations before displaying their injured bag for all to see.

One sign of development is that no one wants to give a human being a job, because that is too expensive. Therefore, the hardest thing to find here is a human being to help you (unless you need a policeman, in which case there are plenty.) The other ubiquitous property of development (and in my case, this is poetic justice) is the authoritarian computer. There isn't enough space to tell you about all the times I came up against a computer that arrogantly controls people and processes without leg room for deviation, but this is what happened when the airline finally transported me to a hotel...

Rigid computer

Receptionist: Ma'am, are you from American Airlines? But they didn't call first to let us know you were coming!

Me: I have a voucher. Do you have a room?

Receptionist: Yes, but it doesn't matter, the computer requires that they call first.

Me: It is almost two in the morning, is there a way to quickly sort this out and let me rest.

Receptionist: Ma'am, I can't bypass the computer. I will call the airline so that they can call back and reserve by phone.

Me: Trust me, I have been trying for the last three hours, there is no one there to answer your call...

You don't want to hear the rest of this conversation, but we did finally manage to bypass this particular rigid computer.

This Saturday let's have a little less of the "big data" and a little more of the "big service."

Computers arrogantly control people and processes without room for deviation

Send your feedback to satmag@ke.nationmedia.com

**DAY
IN THE
LIFE**

BY KINUTHIA MBURU



To the rescue of tomorrow's woman

Having grown up in an abusive environment, I dreamt of running a rehabilitation home for teenage girls. My dream came true last year when I started the Vivian Karimi Foundation. My hotel business is my main source of funding for the home. Until recently, I had six hotel branches in different parts of the city, but I lost one after a Somali-bound cargo plane crashed on the building hosting the hotel in Utawala last month. I have learned to rise from the debris and soon, I will open another branch.

I spend most of my time at the rescue centre because I want to raise the girls into great women. On week days, I wake up at 4.30am. I read the Bible and pray, then prepare my daughters, aged 12 and eight, for school. After that I go to the rehabilitation centre, which is a short distance

from my home. It is a thankless job with much heartbreak especially when people decline my offer to help. For instance, last year I rescued a

Vivian Karimi is the founder of Vivian Karimi Foundation Girl's Centre, a rescue home for teenage girls and owner of Flame Grill, a chain of hotels in Nairobi

Two girl who had left school to work at a construction site. I lived with her for a while counselling her and showing her the importance of education. But when I took her back to her parents' home, they were shocked to hear that she wanted to go back to school. Nonetheless, I organised for her return to school, but a few months later, she back to toiling at construction sites.

It is also difficult when government officials sit aloof when their intervention is needed.

Recently, I tried to rescue a 14-year-old child, who is also a mother of one. She was forcibly married

off to a 27-year-old man two years ago. The officials at the children's department kept sending me back and forth without any real intention of intervening, and the police were reluctant to arrest the man. I had to take matters into my own hands. I called the man and persuaded him to hand over the girl and her daughter to me. He agreed and told me that he'd look for her when she turned 18!

In the afternoon, I check the food stock at the home and schedule counselling sessions for the girls. At 4pm I leave the office to make rounds at a few of my hotels to interact with my staff and customers. From these interactions, I find out where we're going wrong and how we can provide better services. I try to be home by 6pm to bond with my family, cook for my husband and help my daughters with their homework. I retire to bed after watching the 9pm news.

MAINFEATURE

Doing business with the government



It has been roughly a year since the government came up with a preferential category to get more women (and youth and disabled persons) to participate in public procurement.

KINUTHIA MBURU
takes stock of what this has meant for women in business

When Mary Wanjiru and her friends from Murang'a County started a chama a few years ago, their dreams were humble. With a monthly contribution of Sh400 each, all they wanted was to pool money together in a meaningful way; money they would then use buy household goods and whatnots. They later transformed into Murang'a Womens Sacco, but even then they couldn't have dreamt of what lay ahead. Last week they won a lucrative Sh30million tender to repair roads in Murang'a County. It was never part of their plan to apply for tenders, but when the government directed that 30 per cent of all public procurement opportunities be reserved for women, youth and disabled people, Mary and her sacco members decided to give it a shot.

It was the first tender they ever applied for and they won thanks to this preferential procurement rule.

Their success story is echoed by Jane

Wangechi, who is reaping the fruits of preferential procurement, launched last year, for women and other special groups.

For six years, Jane has been the managing partner of Creativedge Solutions, an IT (now also a tendering firm), but bidding for tenders was a foreign concept to her.

"Although I had a growing business, I had never bid for a tender before," she says.

When the new rule to set aside tenders for special groups, including women, was announced last year, she saw a new opportunity to spread her wings. The prospects of winning her first tender filled her with anxiety as she wondered whether her application would be make the cut.

"I feared that I may be unfairly boxed out to pave way for renowned applicants. If they asked for a bribe to register my business at the National Treasury or to produce my tax certificate, I'd be done."

Nevertheless, she applied. "I did not want to one day look back and wonder what I

would have achieved if I had applied," she recalls.

She won her first tender worth Sh200,000 to supply computer accessories to a government ministry.

"It was a small tender but I knew that it had opened the door for me to start doing business with the government."

And six months ago, she bagged a Sh3 million tender to supply more computer accessories to another government ministry. Evidently, preferential procurement for special groups has set off women on their path to easily earn their first million through supplying items to the government. So far, women, youth and persons with disabilities have won tenders worth more than Sh1.4 billion.

According to Rahab Nyakio, a procurement consultant based in Nairobi, the procurement rule is the new frontier for women to enrich themselves.

"This is a profitable platform. Those who

apply diligently and without giving up will inevitably reap huge profits," she says.

Esther Kagiri, the owner and managing director of GlobeTrack International, attests to this. She says: "I lost my first tender but I didn't give up. I kept applying and six months ago, I bagged a media and monitoring tender with an insurance parastatal."

Linet Aswani who plans to make her first bid soon, believes that it is very easy for women to get government tenders now, unlike in the past when the whole process was shrouded in mystery.

"All you need is to ensure that you have read, understood and met the specific requirements in a tender, and of course apply."

Although many women win tenders without a solid source of capital, some have learned to beat financing barriers by using Local Purchase Orders (LPOs) to negotiate with the government department that advertises any particular tender.

Eunice Wamweru is one of these women. After winning her first tender to supply furniture and fittings, Eunice was able to negotiate a 50 per cent payment to facilitate part of her supplies.

"I didn't have enough funds but the contract gave me enough ground to negotiate for an upfront pay," she says.

"I had done my research well and knew that the law provided for such a negotiation."

Ms Nyakio adds that although the procuring agency may take longer than 30 days to pay, it is mandated to facilitate invoice discounting arrangements with the bank to help advance credit to the women who apply. Dorothy Wakio Mwaengo, who won a tender to supply computer accessories, agrees.

"The contract gave me a firm footing, and our company could comfortably approach a financier to get credit. However, it is always advisable to ensure that you have a good agreement with the procuring agency just in case the delay in payment goes beyond what you agreed with your financier."

Nonetheless, this 30 per cent public procurement rule that favours women (and other groups) has not been free from challenges. Very telling was the revelation that only two per cent of women youth and disabled people had applied for the tenders.

I had met all the requirements for the tender I lost. I had the expertise, the experience and the staff to carry out the task. But I was disqualified because mine is a local company." - Esther Kagiri, businesswoman

Many capable women who could easily bid for tenders successfully seem to have been left out in the cold. Why is this?

According to Esther, the procurement rule should be re-thought.

"Some of us keep applying because we are determined to succeed. But there are many who become disillusioned after failing to pre-qualify."

Esther recalls losing a two-year media monitoring tender in "unfair" circumstances last year.

"I had met all the requirements for the tender I lost. I had the expertise, the experience and the staff to carry out the task. But I was disqualified because mine is a local company and for quoting Sh30, 000 more than the company that won the tender," she says.

Not one to take an unfair duel lying down, Esther filed an appeal at the Public Procurement Oversight Authority (PPOA).

"It was unfair to lose when the law said I was to be given preference. But even after filing a complaint, no action was taken," she says.

Janet* who requested anonymity out of fear that she may be blacklisted in future for speaking out on the challenges, complains that the only opportunities that she can place a bid for fall under the open category, where she has to fight it out with men and seasoned businesses.

"In the open category, women hardly win any tenders," says Janet, a co-partner in a data management firm.

"In my case, tenders relating to data management appear to be reserved for foreign companies and top local data corporates. They have more financial muscle making it hard for us to win despite our capabilities."

Incidentally, most of the tenders in the preferential category for women and other special groups have been for supplies of soft goods and services.

However, Grace Korir, doesn't mind supplying what some may see as soft stuff. These so-called soft tenders have been her bread and butter for some months now. Since last year, she has won three tenders worth Sh750, 000 in total for the supply of computer and office accessories.

"If there's a tender for any supply that I can provide, I will not hesitate to apply as long as I am able to make some profit out of it."

But while some women like Grace have not shied away from applying for such tenders, more established entrepreneurs feel that it is time the government widened the offering for preferential tenders to include more "serious" stuff.

Says Esther: "We can succeed more if the tenders set aside for women go beyond soft supplies like flowers and biros."

A spot check by Saturday Magazine on previous and upcoming tenders showed that tenders for supplies like office accessories, stationery, charcoal, vegetables, detergents, uniforms, photocopy, cleaning services and branded t-shirts are the ones commonly set aside for women and other special groups.

Jane further points out that businesswomen looking to get tenders in government are forced to pre-qualify for every tender. Prequalification is the process of assessing whether a company that wants to bid for tenders has the capacity to do so and meets the required standards.

"I was applying for two separate tenders and I had to pre-qualify for each one of them," she says. "It would help if after the initial registration and pre-qualification, you are not forced to repeat the same process for every tender."

Ms Nyakio, the procurement consultant, concurs:

"There have been instances of duplication of the application process. But with the legal requirement for the consolidation of approved applications at the National Treasury, women may not be required to re-apply for every available tender," she says.

Similarly, many newcomers are likely to be locked out by the tax compliance rule. According to Ms Nyakio, women will be required to submit their tax compliance certificate. She sees this as the main reason why it takes long for women trying to apply for the tenders to be given the go-ahead (pre-qualification).

"It will take you about six months to get the tax compliance certificate if you don't have one or if you are a newcomer. Thereafter, you will start the pre-qualification process that will be conducted by the National Treasury or at the organisation where you want to bid for a tender."

In the same vein, many women have missed on lucrative tenders due to misinformation. Continues Nyakio: "Many women do not know that they don't only need to register their business to qualify, but that once they register, they must then go to the National Treasury and register their business again."

With a little fine-tuning, though, Jane says that the successes will outweigh these challenges.

"If women are trained on how to apply, where to start and how to build their portfolio, we shall be able to achieve much more than we are achieving," she says.

Mugure* who requested anonymity for fear that she might sabotage her current tender bid, concurs. She has won other tenders before, and when she started, her first win was a tender to supply a school with liquid soap. "I had the best price because I had found a quality industry where I could buy cheaply. I used this school as a reference and got 16 more schools. Today, I go for the big tenders. Starting small will always give you a head start later," she says, adding that you should always be in the boardroom during tender opening to fight off any canvassing that may take place in your absence.

TIPS TO SMOOTHLY AND SUCCESSFULLY APPLY FOR A TENDER

■ "After registering your business, you should get Value Added Tax, Tax Compliance, and registration certificates, then go to the National Treasury and register to pre-qualify," says Mugure. "You won't need to travel to Treasury headquarters to apply. You can do so at your county headquarters," adds Jane.

■ "In all your applications, make sure you have presented a technically strong application," says Nyakio. "Your application will be judged on its technical strength before its financial quotations are vetted." Ensure areas like your past job experience, qualifications, staff and its qualifications market your case aptly. Mugure adds that you should find

someone with a better handwriting to fill your forms if your handwriting is poor, to increase your chances.

■ Always get a procurement consultant to assist you if you're not too sure about what to include and what not to include in your application. "He or she should be able to carry out a market analysis to help you quote the right prices without over-quoting or under-quoting," says Nyakio.

■ After winning the tender, never deliver your services without an LPO. "It is your contract with the government. If you deliver to someone without it, they might default on paying or drag your payment for years," cautions Mugure.



GIRLTALK

LIZZIE'S WORLD WITH LIZ LUNDI

To tell or not to tell?

Alex prods Liz to confide in him about her incident with Philip



By the time I get back to the wedding party, I have managed to calm down a little bit, but I am still confused; should I tell Mariam what her new beau Philip has just asked me – and said about her in the process? Should I forget about it and act like it never happened? Should I issue him a stern warning – just between the two of us – that my girl likes him and if he ever disrespects her like that, I will have serve his crown jewels for dinner?

I wander towards the bar, not really paying attention to where I am going since my mind is so far away. "Hey, are you ok?" a voice drifts over my shoulder and I whip round, hoping it is not Philip.

In fact, it is Alex. Not exactly my favourite person on the planet, but a much better person to talk to than Philip right now.

"Yes," I nod absently. "I'm fine. Why?"

"Because you look a little green around the gills," he says. I pat my hair and smack my lips together in a subconscious effort to look pretty, and Alex quips, "That's not what I meant, silly. You look absolutely stunning. But you also look like you need a drink." He grabs my elbow and steers me directly to the bar counter, and I am still a little dazed when, a few seconds later, he hands me a glass of white wine and takes a sip from his whisky glass. "Ehe?" he raises an eyebrow.

"What?!" I shrug.

"Look, it didn't take me a lot to figure out that something must have happened between you and Philip. I could tell from the way you stormed in and the way he sheepishly walked in behind you and made a beeline for her." He indicates with his chin in Mariam's direction, and I turn to look; they are seated at a table, arm by arm,

and Mariam is giggling at something that Philip is whispering in her ear. I turn back to Alex, who is staring very intently at me. "Did he touch you?" he asks, a ripple of anger crossing his face.

"No!" I yelp and back away from Alex a little bit, subconsciously wrapping my arms around my chest.

"Ok, ok," he says, reaching out for my elbow and pulling me closer towards him. Now we're standing so close that there is almost no space between us,

There is no way I am keeping this secret to myself, so I make a decision to trust Alex

and I can feel his warm breath on my temple as he leans towards my ear. "You know I'm going to make you confess, one way or another," he says softly. "So you can tell me now, voluntarily."

"Or else?" I lean back and stare him straight in the eye. I want him to know that no matter how many butterflies there are in my tummy, or how utterly incapable of carrying me my knees currently feel, or how much I yearn to reach out and feel his hard chest, so close to my bosom, with the flat of my palm, that we are equals and he cannot cow me.

"Or else I will make you," he says. "I might enjoy that," I murmur.

Alex leans his head back and laughs a loud one, breaking our moment of romantic tension. "You would be more funny if you weren't so uptight," he

says when his laughter subsides. "But seriously now, what happened there?"

There is no way I am keeping this secret to myself – I mean, I know me – and since it is not an option to tell any of the girls (in case they run directly to Mariam and tell her) I make a quick decision to trust Alex. And so I tell him everything that has transpired between me and Philip in the last half hour.

"So what's wrong with that?" he asks when I finish. My jaw drops in amazement.

"You mean you don't see the problem with him hitting on both of us at the same time – and with him telling me that he thinks I am hotter than she is – and we're best friends?!"

Alex weighs my words and then shrugs. "Ok, so it was tasteless. But it's not like they are married, you know. Or even dating."

"It doesn't matter," I hold up a palm. "If he likes one of the girls in our group, he can't hit on the rest of us. He can try it with someone else, but not us. Not her good friends."

"Ok, I see your point. So he's a creep. Keep that to yourself," he says.

"What? Why?" I ask Alex. I am genuinely curious as to why he thinks I shouldn't protect my girl.

"Because it's none of your business. And because she's a grown woman who is allowed to make her own mistakes. And because if he really is a creep, she'll find out soon enough."

"But... but..." I start to say. Just then, the music changes to a soft number by John Legend.

"And because this is a beautiful song and I would like you to shut up for a few seconds and come dance with me." Then he pulls me onto the dance floor and when he wraps his arms around me, I forget everything I was thinking about a few seconds ago.

RESEARCH CENTRE WITH JOAN THATIAH

Why women try to keep ladies in red from their men

You may have chosen the dress you have on today because of the way it fits, how it complements your skin tone or maybe it was the only clean item in your wardrobe. What you might not know is that if you wear red, other women will assume that you are out to steal their man, a new study has found. Psychologists found that women in red are perceived by other women as more sexual and more likely to prey on men in relationships as opposed to women wearing other colours such as white or green.

During the study women were first asked to look at photos of other women in white. Then the photos were digitally altered to make it look like they were now wearing red and the women were asked to look at them again. When asked which woman they perceived as more promiscuous or receptive to sex the majority of the respondents chose the woman in red. The respondents also assessed the fidelity and financial resources of the women in the pictures.

Fidelity test

Most thought that the woman in red would cheat on her partner though they did not judge her financial ability. Finally, the women were asked to compare the photos of the women wearing red and those of the woman wearing a more neutral colour, green. When asked whether they would introduce the woman in red to their boyfriends, the respondents were overwhelmingly unwilling to let this woman meet their men.

The researchers found that the colour of a woman's dress or shirt affects what both men and women think about her. The colour red was found to evoke ideas of sex because it symbolises love and lust. This explains why a woman would not want a woman in red near her partner.

Explaining the study titled 'Red and romantic rivalry', social psychologist Adam Padza who led the study says that there may be a biological explanation as to why the colour is seen as sexual because when women become sexually excited, they blush.

"Women are more likely to say that women in red are less faithful. They do pick up on the sexually receptive cue and what that leads to is some sort of defensiveness," explained Padza.



GIRLTALK

WOMAN OF PASSION

WITH FLORENCE BETT

WHAT SHE ADVISES

- Assess the viability of your passion before you pursue it for money, because not every passion can be turned into a business – how will you need to turn it into a business?
- Have a mentor to guide you in your journey, and be a mentor to somebody who is starting out. It completes the circle of giving.
- There is a rewarding power in your passion that you won't understand until you pursue it.
- Be prepared to make sacrifices for your business, and to pay the price for pursuing your passion.

I was one of those young girls who dreamed of becoming an air hostess, and actually became one. I had applied for a cabin crew job for three years in a row with no success. I had given up on it. Then in 2001 (at 23), they called me and gave me the job.

"I was newly married when I started it that October. It was all so exciting – the uniform, the flying, the new and exotic destinations, the hefty salary. But I knew this wasn't a lifetime career: There was the practicality of ageing on the job, and getting replaced with a younger crew. Kenya Airways (KQ) had not yet amended its rules on cabin crew having children (they would later allow it). There was the constant time away from my husband. It worsened when we had our daughter in May 2003, and I started flying international routes. This meant I was away from my family more frequently, and for longer. It was unbearable. By 2008, I desperately wanted out.

Childhood interests

Ever since high school I had an interest in organising events. I considered going into wedding planning full-time but my husband asked for my patience – he had just left his job to start an IT company. His business was still young. For the financial sanity of the household, we agreed that I would hold off on quitting until his business stabilised.

"I gave myself a window of four years. And in that time, I did what I needed to prepare for the journey ahead: I enrolled in an events planning class, and graduated in August 2009 as a certified wedding planner. I took an entrepreneurship course to learn the fundamentals of running a business – basic accounting, strategy and vision, HR management and whatnot. I also registered my business, Forever Beautiful, in June 2007. And I started to save more money.

"I had my second child in August 2008. Now I was convinced more than ever that I needed to leave my job. It had seemed

PHOTO | JEFF ANGOTE



From flight cabins to weddings

Mellen Ochieng, 37, left her job as an airline steward to pursue her passion for wedding planning and consultancy. She tells Florence Bett all about that.

OK to leave one child at home with my husband. But two?

At the start of 2012, I was counting down the months to my resignation date. It was a coincidence that that year, KQ

announced its restructuring programme to lay off a huge number of staff. I remember celebrating when others were moaning the loss of their jobs. I opted for the early retirement package which came with a

generous cash payout that I redirected to my business. My plans were going well.

"In August 2012 – after 12 years as a cabin crew member – I jumped ship to pursue my passion. I had been running the business as a side gig for four years, but it wasn't until I got into it full-time that I experienced firsthand the challenges of being an entrepreneur and switching careers.

"I had to learn personal time management. At an airline, your flying schedule is timetabled to a tee. Now here I was – an entire day with the responsibility of planning my own hours while running a business and managing a team. It wasn't a challenge I had anticipated. The entrepreneurship course I attended helped a bit but it was the pressure of the weddings itself that truly taught me how to manage time, while a company called Passion Profit helped me fine-tune my passion into a profitable venture.

Learning new skills

"I also had to overcome my shyness. I am naturally a behind-the-scenes kind of girl. I keep to myself a lot. I realise the irony, given that I was working in an industry which involves dealing with people all day. What made it different was that with KQ, I wasn't pitching a personalised product as I am now. With wedding planning, people open their lives and let you in. It is your job to reflect what they have shown to you, in their weddings. There is no shortcut to this. I had to be taught how to network: I attended a business networking class with an international organisation where I learnt to build a strong rapport and widen my network.

"Adjusting to this new lifestyle that revolved around tightened purse strings and a skinny bank account took time and called for sacrifices. The life of a cabin crew member means the comfort of a fleshy salary, shopping sprees in fine destinations, five-star hotels and high-end fashion. Pursuing my passion asked that I forget all these niceties. It would be several rough months before I settled into this lifestyle. I even lost some old friends during this adjustment period.

"Running the business on a tight budget was also a challenge. Money was going out and not enough of it was coming in. Panic set in often. The mentorship I received from my business partner and from my husband helped me appreciate that such challenges were usual to the young entrepreneur in the first years of business. I had to toughen up.

"The business has been growing since: Through referrals, I have managed to build a portfolio of local and diaspora clients. I am also raising my two kids as I wanted. It's rewarding. My passion sustains the business, and the business can now sustain me.

"My plan is to expand it to include support after the wedding in marriage, parenting and family counselling. It is my family that motivated me to pursue my passion; it's only natural that my business strengthens the family unit."

MALE PERSPECTIVE

MANTALK
WITH JACKSON BIKO

Walking the tight rope of good neighbourliness

A man's got to be careful how friendly he gets with female neighbours or else he'll land in the frying pan



The watchman knocks at your door early on a Saturday morning and says, "Hule mjamaa was C8 amegonga gari yako." You pull up your tracksuit pants and

go down to have a look. The guy from C8 is standing by your car with an apologetic smile. You aren't buddies. You nod at each other every morning and evening, but that's it. Turns out it's

just a small dent. Happens to all of us. A little polite chit chat ensues. You call Bruce, your mechanic, who says it will cost 4K to fix it. The chap from C8 says he will 'Mpesa' you the money in an hour, apologises; you chat a bit about something non-threatening, exchange numbers, shake hands and part ways.

Minor dent

Now let's do this again. The same watchman knocks on your door and says, "Hule mama wa C8 amegonga gari ya mama." You are in the bathroom, whistling because it's a Saturday and you are happy. So the mentioned mama (your wife) asks the hapless watchman, "Ameonga vibaya? C8 ndio mgani? Ni ule anavaanga weave ya red?" She grabs her phone and stomps down the staircase to have a look. You get out of the bathroom minutes later and while you are towelling yourself you hear slightly agitated voices downstairs. You look out the window and see mama and the neighbour's lady, the one who doesn't smile. You can't hear a thing but that conversation isn't going well. Her car is clearly the bone of contention and you can tell that there has been a fender bender.

No diplomacy

But you can't go down yet, because if you do you will go all Kofi Annan on the situation and say that it's no big deal, that the lady from C8 can just fix it, but that level of diplomacy might be misconstrued to mean you have taken the neighbour's wife's side. If you jump in and join ranks with mama you will antagonise a neighbour over a small matter and since you believe in good neighbourliness you really don't want to do that. Plus, C8 might report you to her man who happens to be the size of your car. There is no knowing how that might end. So you keep off let them speak the female language. You whistle away as you dress up, because it's a Saturday.

It's amazing how in an apartment block there is always this silent

surveillance and nosiness going on with women. While you might not even know who lives next door a woman will have picked all the details and profiles of who lives where. C4? She has an attitude. C9: Married to a drunk. C1: Single and looks suspicious. C12: Single mom. She has nice shoes though. C10: Looks kind and nice. (To mean, non-threatening). C1: Is a gold digger. (dating a man who looks like her father). C11: Mad woman. (Had a fight with her husband in the parking lot once. Bounced her phone off his head.) C10: Snobbish (Doesn't say hi to her, drives a Merc, wears six-inch heels). And so it goes. They are profiled and pigeonholed.

Quick lesson

And as a guy you quickly learn not to appear too friendly to the people she finds "unpalatable". At least not in her face. Which means you can't befriend the single mom from C12, or the single snobbish lady from C10.

My pal happened to have directed a single lady in their apartment block to a parking slot, because it's painful to watch a woman reverse for a whole day.

Afterwards, she came out of the car laughing and he laughed too. You know, just two neighbours being neighbourly. When he walked into his house he wasn't being talked to and he didn't figure out what he had done wrong until two days later. And the only reason he found out was a snide remark that was handed to him casually when he complained about how some of the neighbours let their visitors use other residents' parking without informing them. The response? "I see you have become the mayor of parking now, all of a sudden taking parking duties seriously." He quickly changed the subject. So don't play saint to the single lady in the block and if she is hot stare hard at your shoes as you pass her. Who needs problems?

Have a lovely neighbourly Saturday, readers, it's a gorgeous day.

Electricity & You

What You Should Know About Prepaid Billing - Domestic Consumers Tariff

Customers on prepaid billing are on either the Domestic Consumers Tariff or the Small Commercial Consumers Tariff, depending on their consumption levels. The charges on these two tariffs are similar to those for postpaid billing on the same tariffs.

The Domestic Consumers Tariff has a monthly fixed charge of Shs.120. The energy charges are Shs.2.00 per unit for 0-50 units, Shs.8.10 per unit for 51-1,500 units, and Shs.18.57 per unit for units above 1,500.

The customer also pays any taxes, levies or duties imposed from time to time by the Government. At present, these are Value Added Tax (VAT) at 12% charged to the fixed charge, foreign exchange fluctuation adjustment, fuel cost, inflation adjustment, and taxable value of electrical energy consumed in a manner required by the Government. Additionally, there are levies for the Rural Electrification Programme and the Energy Regulatory Commission.

However, domestic consumers whose consumption does not exceed 200 KWh in a month are exempt from paying the VAT.

The Domestic Consumers Tariff is a step tariff whereby the rate applicable to all the units consumed varies according to the level of consumption during the month. Therefore, two tokens of the same amount may not give you the same number of units depending on the step you are in, amongst other factors. Kenya Power's vending system is online and keeps a record of all previous purchases and is thus able to determine the appropriate step in the tariff calculation.

For more information, contact Corporate Communications Department, Stima Plaza P.O. Box 30099, Nairobi. 3202622
@communications@kplc.co.ke or www.kenyapower.co.ke



**HEARTADVICE**

WITH RELATIONSHIP COUNSELLOR MAURICE MATHEKA

BODY & SOUL

Does this man only want me for hanky-panky?

This week we advise a young woman who wonders whether her older boyfriend is with her for just sex

I am 25 years old, but because I am petite most people think I am 19. I met this 35-year-old guy late last year and he kept pestering me for a date until I gave in. He is a nice guy but because of his age I find it awkward going places with him because I fear that people will think I am the typical college girl who goes out with older men for money. This is why I prefer meeting him at his place (we live in the same neighbourhood.) We got close over a couple of months and I gave up my virginity to him. All was well for a while,

EXPERT ADVICE

Maurice Matheka, a relationship counsellor answers:

By meeting exclusively at his house you gave your boyfriend the impression that you want a

physical relationship. Men of all ages are sexual beings. Sexuality for men is part of the package so what you need to do is define your relationship: Are you having a fling? Are you in a "friends with benefits" relationship? Once you come to a mutual understanding of your

relationship status you can forge forward without assumptions and misunderstanding. Here is a tip for you, if he tells you all he wants is a casual affair, don't be quick to dismiss him, bearing in mind the fact that he was man enough to tell you exactly what he wants. Such men who are bold

enough to tell the truth are rare; moreover, I have witnessed flings turn into a successful marriage, why? – Because their foundation was based on the truth from the onset and that is what matters. The truth can be bitter but it can also lead to sweet and fruitful outcomes.

**READERS ADVICE:**

The age difference is not a big deal. However, I get the feeling that you did not take enough time to understand the kind of man he is. Losing your virginity to him shouldn't glue you to him or fill you with regret, instead let this teach you a lesson that will help you make wiser relationship decisions in future. Ask yourself why he went quiet and what is likely to happen when you meet him again, and in future take your time before you

commit yourself to a man; with time the right person will come your way. **Juma Felix**

Take your time to evaluate his seriousness. Working men do get busy at times and completely forget other things so find out if he was truly busy at work. Nevertheless, he should make up for that time, so being busy should not be an excuse. Also, if you truly love him, you shouldn't be ashamed to be seen with him in public. **Calvin Queens**

You should learn to accept yourself the way God created you. Stop being negative about how you look and don't worry what people think of you because you will not change your size through worry. About your man, meet him again but this time take time to learn if all he wants is sex. Also find out the nature of his job and whether it is as demanding as he says. Once you do this you will know whether he is serious about you or not. **Rufus M. Karuru**

This guy is not as good as you think. Good guys don't suddenly become busy. Forget about him because he is gone; if he ever shows up it will be for the sex before he gets 'busy' again. It is sad that you gave up your virginity, a precious and priceless commodity that shouldn't be given away so casually. Unfortunately in your case the deed is already done and you cannot retrieve it. **John Musuku**

NEXT WEEK'S DILEMMA:

I have been in a relationship with this guy on and off for over five years. He works in Dubai and we have a three-year-old son. He has never supported his son in any way. At some point he told me he wanted us to reunite. He promised to change and become responsible. He promised to pay our son's fees and then went silent. When I asked him about it he said he has a lot of responsibilities on his budget and that I should have told him earlier (I told him about it a whole year earlier). He earns a fortune yet he is not ready to take responsibility unless he is pushed. All I want is for him to take care of his son and pay for his upkeep. I don't earn much. What should I do?

**DEAR AUNT TRUPHENA**

PROFESSIONAL ADVICE FOR YOUR LIFE PROBLEMS

My husband has changed since we married

Q : I have been married for five years. When we were courting my husband owned a kinyozi and he wasn't earning much. But he showed me a lot of love and promised me happiness even after marriage. My family gave my husband a nasty welcome when he went to ask for my hand in marriage, because of his 'poverty'. This hurt him very much. Still, we got married even if my brothers didn't like it. My husband changed immediately after marriage. He is cold and we rarely talk. He hid our marriage certificate and forbid me from ever visiting my parents' home. What should I do?

A : Your marriage seems to have been unstable since its beginning. It does not augur well if one family opposes the marriage, and now the cock has come home to roost. Perhaps your family genuinely didn't like him because of the poverty issue – or perhaps they saw something in him that you were too blinded to see. Either way, you're here now, and you're unhappy, so let's deal with your reality. Your husband changed immediately after marriage; this means he was wearing a mask through your courtship. He has hidden your certificate and won't let you visit your family; this means he is not transparent.

Those are two major red flags. You can give him the benefit of the doubt – he could, for example, be reacting to the extreme hurt of your family's rejection. In that case, talk to him, remember that you are his partner first and foremost, reassure him of your love and support and let him know your family will never sway your love for him. If, however, he is too bitter to work on your issues, then perhaps you are better off leaving and finding someone who is willing to be not just your husband, but your partner through all of life's vicissitudes.



Send your feedback to satmag@ke.nationmedia.com

FASHION & STYLE



1 Print crepe silk dress, Sh38, 990; yellow umugozi rope sisal, pewter and leather belt, Sh10, 680, all from Mille Collines.

2 Aubergine bisa dress, Sh19, 880; kwasi necklace, Sh7, 300; blue and mocha askari leather and wood clutch, Sh10, 680, all from Mille Collines.

4 Mocha wool simba jacket, Sh18, 000; off white neza crepe silk pants, Sh13, 990; aqua blue rope sisal, pewter and leather belt, Sh10, 680, all from Mille Collines. Vest, stylist's own.

5 Mocha silk tiered dress, Sh38, 990; bogani sisal and pewter necklace, Sh6, 700; pewter and pink rope sisal ring, Sh4, 930, all from Mille Collines.



3 White silk shirt with seam detail, Sh11, 880; petrol blue silk maxi skirt, Sh22, 880, all from Mille Collines.

Rwandese design house Mille Collines brings simple, modern and natural style for bohemian fashionistas. Be inspired by some of these looks.



Pictures: Duncan Willets Shoot assistant: Moses amaka Make-up: Gladys Githegi Hair: Richie for Uturi Model: Faustine Simiyu Profession: Student & model Hobbies: Cooking, reading and exercising

HANDY FACTS & POINTERS

Comfy uggies

These Ugg style boots have become a staple for the cold spell because they are really warm, comfy and light, and therefore great for this weather. Always wear them with skinnies or leggings to nail the look and to balance out the bulkiness of the boot to avoid looking frumpy. If wearing a skirt, ensure that they are seen so wear a skirt whose hem falls above the knee. Shorter lengths are ideal for short legs to avoid legs that look stumpy, while longer legs can work with both long and short.



Camel boots with quilted detail; grey suedette boots with fur trim; mousy brown boots with white fur trim, Sh1, 900 each, all from Mr Price.

WITH LYDIA OMOLO

IN FROM RWANDA

STOCKISTS
 Mille Collines, Village Market, Nairobi, tel: 0714 301 439 / The Junction, Nairobi, tel: 0700 325 047, 0707 704 422
www.millecollines.es
 Mr Price, The Junction, Nairobi, tel: (020) 386 1894

5



EXPERT STYLE TIPS

The 'varsity' look

Jackets, sweat shirts, pants, tees and shorts are some of the items that are generally incorporated into the university look. Many may shy away from it thinking it looks too young, but the key is to find ways to incorporate it into your adult style. Here are some ways to do that.

COLLEGE JACKETS: These are very versatile and can be thrown over any casual look for a laid-back style. Choose a colour that's versatile and can work across the board with your casual wardrobe. Opt for neutrals in black, grey and white combos, or go for rich subdued colours like maroon, plum and warm deep oranges that are easier to fuse with your wardrobe. You can opt for more fitted option for a more feminine silhouette, or a baggier option for a laid-back, sporty look.

SWEAT PANTS: You can never go wrong with sporty sweat pants; they are easy and comfy. Make sure they are cuffed, as this will give you the option of dressing them up. Throw on a fitted leather jacket, a dressy top and heels for a night out. Pair with sandals, flats or trainers for a dress-down look.

VARSITY T-SHIRT: College tees with number slogans make perfect dress tops paired with skinnies or tights for a casual look. Opt for liquid or pleather tights for a dressier option. This gives a hip hop feel to the whole look. You can shop in the men's section if you must, so that you can achieve a good, loose fit that can be customised to a trendy on-the-go look. If you find one in mesh fabric, throw it over a bodycon solid dress.

ACCESSORIES: These should be simple and minimal. Opt for loops, lariats (both thin and chunky depending on what look you are after) and hoop earrings. Varsity slogans are sometimes loud so balance it out to avoid looking like you are trying too hard.



BABYLOVE

Too many nannies spoil the child

Experts explain why you might want to go slow on hiring and firing nannies on a whim. By Maryanne Waweru

Lucy Kang'ethe has employed 15 house girls since she began hiring help to take care of her children four years ago.

The mother of two – a four-year-old boy and a one-year-old girl – says that this number is exclusive of the girls who only work for one or two days then leave without warning.

The reasons for the high turnover of house helps at her home are as varied as the grains of sand.

"Some couldn't handle the workload, or take basic instructions; others got better job offers, while some returned to their husbands, disrespect ... and so many more," says the 34 year-old who runs her own real-estate business.

Quick dismissal

Lucy, who takes three weeks to train new housegirls –irrespective of their prior working experience, never hesitates to dismiss workers who are not up to the task.

"If you do not meet my expectations I have no business keeping you. The shortest-serving house girl in my home lasted three months, while the longest-serving worked for me for nine months."

While changing house girls almost as frequently as changing diapers may appear to be the norm in many homes today, child development experts warn that a high turnover potentially has negative effects on children. The constant interruption and readjustment to new caregivers can be a challenge especially for young children.



Formative years

"Children spend a lot of time, during their formative years, with their caregivers and even look up to them, picking up attitudes and habits from them. If you change caregivers frequently, each brings a different background that is foreign to the child, such as language, mannerisms, beliefs and values, so there is no consistency in what the child is learning," explains Christopher Kiboro, a sociologist and lecturer at Chuka University.

His views are echoed by Philomena Ndambuki, a child psychologist. According to Dr Ndambuki, social stability is important for the healthy growth of a child and if this stability is disrupted it may affect the child's social, intellectual and emotional development.

Kiboro adds that this constant cycle where a nanny leaves just when a child is developing attachment may lead the child to grow up with the notion that relationships are not long-lasting.

"Children who are exposed to such frequent changes may develop a habit of neglecting social relationships mid-way," he says.

Ndambuki also warns that frequent change in nannies may lead to regression

in some children. Indeed, Lucy has noticed that changing nannies has an effect on her children.

"Whenever I have a new house girl, my children refuse to eat or sleep during the day if I'm not around. My son cries uncontrollably and becomes overly clingy when I'm around. It always takes time for them to adjust to the new one," she says.

Nevertheless, sometimes changing nannies is unavoidable. In such cases Edith Kanyangi of the Centre for Domestic Workers and Training says that women should handle the departure of a house help properly to minimise negative effects on the child.

"Children are attached to their nannies so it can be terribly upsetting when the caregiver leaves. It is a loss to the child and it can greatly affect their emotional health," she says.

"Parents need to be aware of this, and also learn how to help their child in such circumstances. Help the child understand why the caregiver left, and if possible, allow for a sufficient transition period. Do not be quick to replace the former house girl, as the child may need time to grieve the loss."

DIARY OF A WORKING MOTHER

WITH MARIA MWONGELI

Baby's about to get a scooter

Monday, 9:45pm: So now we have a bit of a problem with Baby's toys. I bought her one that growls when you press a switch on its tail and throws its head back, up and round, and best of all, its eyes flash red at the same time! Siji's dad asked me how I could have bought her such a scary toy. I think it's so cool and just as Siji says, 'It's just a toy!'

Siji is three years, three months and three days old today

Tuesday, 7:26am: Yaaay! Nyanya is back to visit. This gives me peace of mind because I know Siji will not suffer in any way when she's there – not that I don't think Nanny is good to her. It's just that she keeps wanting to run to the shops to buy airtime every other hour when I'm home and I wonder if it's not more frequent when I'm not...

Wednesday, 8:36pm: Culture shock on me! I picked out a chicken for dinner and Nyanya facilitated its dispatch to way over yonder. I kept Siji away as I did not want to stir up recent memories. Having forgotten that things are done differently in the West, I was a bit traumatised to find all of the chicken in my pot! Shock on me when Siji decided she wanted to eat the leg. Not the drumstick, which I would have not problem with, but the leg! I guess she truly does belong.

Thursday, 7:17am: Remember the star reward system in pre-school? Siji's aunt inspired me to create a chart where Siji would stick the stars I give her for good behaviour. Well, she gets a large, bright, colourful star today for spending the entire night in her cot. No, 'Nifunike Mum!' as she squeezes in between me and her cot. Way to go girl!

Friday, 9:05am: I need to devise ways to get Siji out of the house. She is so hooked onto her cartoons that she wants to watch one as she has her breakfast, knows which CD has which cartoon and can even use her toes to press the play and stop buttons on the player! Since I don't want her helping Nanny wash clothes in this cold, I will have to get her that scooter sooner than later.

HOW TO PREVENT OR MITIGATE THE EFFECTS

■ Don't be too quick to dismiss a house help for misdemeanours. Have some core qualities you expect and let the rest slide; for instance, if she is excellent with the child, you can overlook other minor shortcomings.

■ Parting ways may be inevitable, so when you release a house help, explain to your child why his nanny has to leave. Also let the nanny bid farewell to the child especially if they had a good bond.

HEALTHMATTERS

When your partner regularly spurns your offers of intimacy, the damage to your self-esteem can be extreme. By Dr Joachim Osur

Jane came to the clinic with what she called evidence of denial of her conjugal rights. "I have been tracking the number of times I have asked my husband for sex and the number of times he refused," she explained. "It has been three months of tracking; I asked for sex 30 times and I was rejected 28 times!"

I wondered why Jane would go the extent of keeping a record of such intimate events. Her explanation was that she needed evidence that things were not working in her marriage. She would then present the evidence to her family, pastor, sexologist or sex therapist to help because previous attempts to discuss this with her husband were not well received.

Lame excuses

She also felt that his reasons for refusing sex were lame. "All of a sudden his job is now stressful," she complained. "Unfortunately for him, I can tell when he is being economical with the truth."

Another reason for rejection was lack of interest. "He just says he is not in the mood, that he is not psychologically ready to have sex," Jane explained. But Jane believed that even if one is not in the mood, they should make sacrifices for the sake of someone they love.

"Is it possible that this man could be having an affair?" she asked rhetorically.

Sometimes her husband would claim he was too busy watching his favourite TV programme. "He keeps off the bedroom till I fall asleep then comes and sleeps quietly" she explained, "I feel this TV is just a scapegoat."



of expressing my love for you and things do not work out." Open up a discussion about how you can both be receptive and caring of each other's needs. Ask him what you can do to get him interested.

Delicate conversation

During this delicate conversation, listen to what your partner has to say. Remember that sexual satisfaction between couples is a 50/50 contribution. Sometimes your spouse keeps off sex because of difficulties that you could be part of. You will need to work together to correct the problem. Avoid the temptation to point an accusing finger; aim to support your spouse through his difficulties. Hopefully he reciprocates.

Of course, if this conversation falls apart, it is prudent to seek help. Sometimes loss of sexual interest results from a disease in the body and sometimes it is due to relationship problems. An expert may need to help with treatment or relationship counselling.

Jane's husband was called in. After a thorough sexological assessment, it turned out that the couple had deep-seated relationship problems. They were referred for relationship counselling.

Six months later I got a call from Jane: "We have decided to call it quits. Our differences were too big to be resolved," she said. This was truly sad, but of course, people make their choices. It was, however, a reminder that whenever sex rejection happens, it should never be taken lightly.

Send your feedback to satmag@ke.nationmedia.com

Rejection is brutal

But as I explained to Jane, whatever the excuse, sexual rejection can be damaging. Turning down sexual advances by a sex partner seriously damages their self-esteem. You begin to wonder whether you are no longer attractive to the person you love. Perhaps you are not important to the person anymore. You get hurt and bitterness brews as your

advances are rejected repeatedly. You begin to act harshly towards the person you once loved, feel betrayed, and look for ways to hurt them in return.

"I now understand why people kill others or even themselves," Jane said. "Making a sexual advance towards your spouse puts you in a position of vulnerability, and if he rejects it, the hurt is so

overwhelming." I asked Jane if she had ever let her spouse know how hurtful his behaviour is. This conversation is hard, but is the first step in attempting to resolve the issue. The point should be neutrally put, not phrased in an accusing manner. Say something like: "You know I really get hurt every time I make sexual advances as a way

HEALTH & NUTRITION

BY SONA PARMAR MUKHERJEE

How going wheat-free can help you lose weight

**Clinical nutritionist
Sona Parmar Mukherjee
explains what happens when you drop wheat from your diet**

Giving up wheat appears to be all the rage these days, particularly by people that may not necessarily have a sensitivity to wheat.

Intolerance is quite different from an allergy to a particular food. When you have an allergy, there is an abnormal immunological response to a food (swollen lips, itchy throat, etc.). When you have an intolerance, the symptoms are generally milder. While not everyone is intolerant to wheat, it is a relatively widespread and under-recognised problem. In fact, a number of people I see at my clinic have complained that they literally put on weight overnight. This weight is actually just water and helps to explain why so many people find that cutting out a food they're intolerant to can help them shed up to three kilos, without going on a diet. While it's very unlikely that someone's go-

ing be overweight solely due to a wheat intolerance, the fact that you might feel more energetic, slimmer and better all round by cutting it out can help to keep you motivated to stick to a healthy (even weight-loss) diet. It may just be worth going against the grain.

Experts used to believe that it was sensitivity to gluten, the key protein in wheat, that caused the unpleasant symptoms. But gluten is also found in other grains like rye, barley and oats, and most people don't have a problem with them.

Sensitivity

Most tellingly, 80 per cent of people diagnosed with coeliac disease, an extreme gluten allergy, don't react to oats. So what's going on? It appears that the sensitivity is actually to a particular kind of gluten called gliadin – the main kind of

gluten in wheat; rye and barley only contain small amounts and oats don't contain any. So while a couple of slices of toast might leave you bloated after breakfast, a bowl of oats may go down a treat. It's all about lessening the wheat "load" on the body.

By overburdening your body — with, say a wheat-based cereal for breakfast, a sandwich for lunch, then pasta for dinner — you can create a temporary intolerance to wheat. If that's the case, limiting your intake to one wheat-based meal a day may bring about an improvement in your symptoms.

If not, start by avoiding all gluten grains (wheat, rye, barley and oats) for at least 10 days. If you start to feel noticeably better, you could try reintroducing oats, since oats contain no gliadin, and see what happens. The best case scenario? You could



WHAT TO EAT INSTEAD

Beans, lentils, rice (preferably brown), sweet potatoes and oats are all good alternative sources of starch to help provide nutritious bulk to your meal. If you're looking for a direct swap for wheat-based bread, consider varieties based on rye. Rye breads seem less likely to provoke the problems associated with a food intolerance.

HAIR & BEAUTY WITH IRENE NJOROGE-KRISTIAN

Glam up your nail tips

Metallic tips are the latest nail trend that will add an edge to your look.

Imagine having fingertips that look as though they have been capped with 14k gold!

This is the latest in nail beauty trends. Metallic nail extensions look amazing on women of all ages. With plenty of metallic shades to choose from, you can transform your look to enhance your jewellery and clothes.

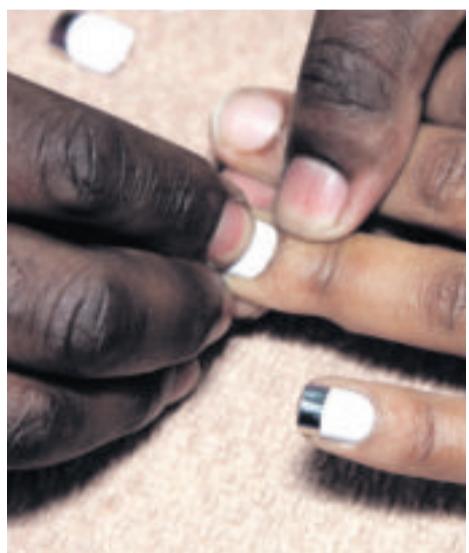
The metallic tips come in different shapes and types. There are plain ones, which are covered with special foil in the chosen colour. These require heat to enable them to cling to the acrylic nail base, explains Patrick, a nail technician. The other types come ready-to-wear. All that is necessary is the application using the correct technique. They can be jazzed up

with rhinestones and sequins for the ultimate high-glamour look. Other artistic designs can be created to express your individuality. These nails last up to two weeks because of the special adhesive and bonding application process.

PHOTOS: MARTIN MUKANGU. Nail designs courtesy of Patrick@Tony Airo's Salon, Lyric House, Kimathi Street. Tel: 0721622385.



NEXT WEEK:
a reader's
extreme
makeover with
botox and
dermal filler. Do
not miss!



NATURAL HAIR CORNER

All your natural hair questions answered.

Dealing with low porosity natural hair

Q: My hair is perpetually dry and does not absorb products. Even when I wet it, the water forms beads that just stay on the hair. What can I do to fix this?

A: Porosity is the hair's ability to absorb moisture, similar to a sponge. The higher the porosity, the easier it is to absorb and

retain moisture. It sounds like yours is low porosity hair. In low porosity hair the cuticles lie flat and resist the absorption of water, colour or any chemical processing. For low porosity hair, use a clarifying shampoo to remove product build-up from your strands. Heat is also very effective in lifting up the cuticles to improve absorbency. Use a heating cap, steamer or dryer

when you condition your hair. Rinse with warm water and apply your leave-in conditioner or oil while hair is still warm. Limit the use of protein treatments and focus instead on moisturising treatments. Use lighter more absorbent oils



like jojoba, grape seed and argan oil. If you live in a humid area, adding humectants like honey and glycerin to your regimen will also help. Managing your hair's porosity will enable you to have healthy long hair.

— TRICIA WANJALA

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PERSONAL FINANCE



What type of investor are you?

You could be a buyer, speculator or primary investor – and it all depends on how much work you put in. By **Waceke Nduati Omanga**

Are you an investor, a buyer or a speculator? Do you know the difference, and how each of these affects your wealth status? Let me explain.

Karimi buys a shirt at Gikomba for Sh300. If she sells it to one of her friends in Nairobi's CBD, she will be able to sell it for Sh1, 000. She is an investor. She knows that the price she bought it for is well below what she could sell the shirt for in a different location.

Mutua buys the shirt from Karimi. He washes it, irons it and wraps it in a nice package. He then goes into Westlands and sells the shirt for Sh2, 000. He is a buyer. He knows that the price he bought it at was the fair market value. He had to do something else to it i.e. value add to fetch a higher price.

Georgina buys the packaged shirt from Mutua expecting to sell it in Westlands to someone else for Sh3, 000. Georgina is a speculator. There is no fundamental reason why someone would buy that shirt from her at that price, and she is not doing anything

extra to it to warrant a higher price. She is counting on someone else's ignorance.

Now, let's look our three characters again in the context of investments. Karimi has been a keen observer in the stock market. One of the listed companies she has been researching has just initiated development of a commercial centre. However, Karimi notices that the share price has not moved. She does some analysis and it becomes obvious that the market has not factored in the value this commercial centre will bring to the company, as well as the incremental profits that will arise from this. She decides to buy the share. Two years later when the commercial centre is finished, leased out and is getting a lot more attention in the news, demand for the share rises. Karimi is able to sell her share with a 50 per cent gain. It takes hard work via research to be an investor at this level. You have to be prepared to keep an eye on what is going on around you to spot these opportunities. You also have to make decisions based

on facts. It was a fact that the company was going to put up a commercial centre. Karimi literally makes money at the point of investment because she realises a fundamental development has not been factored into the share price.

Mutua buys an acre of land. The area where he buys has experienced tremendous growth. Roads have been expanded and several universities are opening up in the area. He recognises that his investment is not the land; had he been able to spot the opportunities earlier before the new developments came in, he would have now been selling that land at a higher price. He would have been an investor at that point. He knows he has bought the land for market value, which has already factored in all these changes. His opportunity lies in the student housing that will be required. He gets partners on board and together they develop hostels, which will provide them with decent income. Just as with the shirt, Mutua knew he had to do something extra to realise gains. It was not simply the land that would give him these gains; it was adding value to the land by building. The opportunities to realise gains from the land (based on fundamental changes) had already passed him by. If you are pursuing an investment at Mutua's level you have to be willing to go the extra mile and do something different to get your return.

Georgina buys a car. She thinks she can

sell it for a higher price to her colleagues at work. She bought the car when it had already landed and in Nairobi. The dealer had already factored his hard work and profit margin into the sale price. Anyone else could have walked into the same dealership and would have bought it for exact same price. Georgina is now riding on hope that someone will just buy it from her at a higher price. Unlike Karimi, she wasn't the early bird in this equation. Unlike Mutua, there is nothing she is doing to add value to the car. She is a speculator. Speculation may take the least amount of work but is a very risky strategy because there are no underlying fundamentals to

Speculation may take the least amount of work but it is a very risky strategy because it is not based on any underlying

help you conclude that someone else will buy that particular investment from you. Just like the shirt, she is hoping others are lazy or ignorant enough to help her make an easy profit.

Do not be fooled. Actual investment takes a fair amount of work and no one can spoon-feed you. Which type of investor are you?

Waceke runs a programme on personal financial management. Find her at waceke@centonomy.com | [twitter @centonomy](#)

RELATIONSHIPS

Bringing back the chivalrous man

Can you teach men to treat you better? **Joan Thatiah** finds out

How many times have you sat and listened to a woman complain that there are no good men left? That chivalry died and left a breed of rude and selfish men in its place? This belief is so deeply ingrained that traditional acts of chivalry are often frowned upon as suspicious.

"I can't just accept it. When a man is too nice, I wonder what he wants in return," shares Janice, a 27-year-old artist who believes that chivalry is rare or dead at worst.

Is there a basis for her beliefs? Is chivalry a foreign concept to the current generation of men? Do women need to be suspicious of chivalrous men? These questions prompted us to carry out a dipstick survey of men aged between 23 and 39, which showed that you would be wrong to assume that chivalry is dead. A talk with a few women also showed that both the average man and woman is uncertain of what a true chivalrous act is. Dictionary.com describes it as the sum of the ideal qualifications associated with a knight including courtesy, generosity, valour and dexterity in arms. During the medieval times it included some acts which may seem incompatible with the notions of gender equality that we have today; like gentlemen laying their jackets on puddles of water for women to cross over.

What does chivalry entail today? Stephen Maru an image consultant says that it is simply courtesy, generosity and consideration especially towards women. It's being treated with respect where matters of everyday life are concerned. He says, "Now things have changed. Instead of texting her, call her to set up a date. Simply follow the doctrine of women and children first. That's consideration."

Slipping standards

However, not all men will meet such standards, and this should come as no surprise seeing as even the initial concept was associated with knights who were an exclusive class of men. Nevertheless, men insist that they still practise this virtue, so why are women complaining? When you talk to the guys, you realise that women have contributed to the demise of gentlemanliness, and no, the culprit isn't the angry feminist.

While admitting that there are men who will do nice things for a woman while expecting something in return, Kevin Oyugi a 36-year-old bachelor and programme officer with an NGO, feels that women tend to ignore gentlemen and instead focus on dating men who can never treat them right.



"Why doesn't a woman want to be made to feel special? Why all the mistrust thinking that if someone is nice they want something in return?" he poses.

This assertion that women do not think they deserve to be treated well and hence are suspicious of chivalrous men is supported by Joseph Jacques in his book *Chivalry now: The Code of Male Ethics*, where he blames the low standards that women have set for themselves for the decline in gentlemanliness. Women get into relation-

ships not expecting much from a man. The man in turn reads into it making him think that it's okay to treat her poorly. If a man sees that he can get away with this, he will do even less to make her feel special making it a vicious cycle.

"If you feel you don't deserve it you won't get it," he writes.

We are living at a time when women are so quick to put themselves out to be objectified; indecency is increasingly getting rewarded. Young women especially get

the idea that being a sex object is the only way for a woman to be valued. Women are allowing themselves to be judged based solely on their physical attributes, why should a man see her beyond the physical? Why should a man respect a woman who barely respects herself?

A gentleman cannot exist without a lady. A woman also needs to adhere to certain standards and it appears like the instant she frees herself from these, she frees a man from chivalry as well.

To get men back on track, it seems that women will have to embrace personal ac-

"Why do women think that if a man is nice to them or does something special, he wants something in return?" - Kevin

countability. Women should start expecting more which will in turn prompt men to give more. Do you feel like the men you meet do not treat you well enough? Demand more. Hold the men you date to higher standards.

Missing the point

"A man needs motivation sometimes," twenty-nine-year-old Joe Kibet a marketer explains why he sometimes doesn't go out of his way to be nice to a woman or to make her feel special.

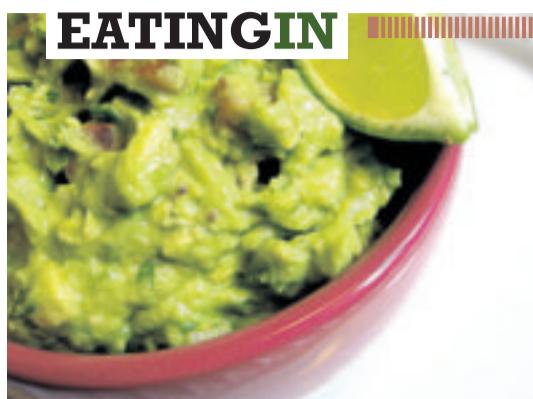
"If I carry heavy bags for a woman or hold open a door for her, I expect a 'thank you' or at least a smile," he says.

He doesn't see the point of being nice if a woman cannot appreciate it. This expectation of recognition or gratitude is one to which many men attach to their acts of kindness making one wonder whether both sexes have missed the point of chivalry.

Ideally, the point of these acts is love, service and sacrifice, placing another's comfort and safety above your own. Chivalry comes from a point where both sexes agree that men and women are biologically different and that men are physically stronger. Having gotten that competition aspect out of the way, the men use their strength to protect and serve women whether or not women appreciate it or act-like ladies deserving of it.

EATING & OUTING

EATINGIN



Vegetable tacos with guacamole dip

Ingredients:

10 taco shells

For the taco filling

- 600g of seasonal vegetables (beans, babycorn, broccoli, cauliflower, corn kernels, asparagus etc), finely chopped
- 1/2 red pepper, sliced
- 1 large onion, sliced
- 1/2 green pepper, sliced
- 100g cheddar, grated
- 1 handful coriander leaves
- 1 pinch of salt and pepper
- 1/2 iceberg lettuce, shredded
- 1 1/2 tbsp of olive oil

For the taco spice mix

- 2 tbsp of onion powder or celery salt
- 1 tsp ground cumin
- 1 tbsp chilli powder
- 1 tsp paprika
- 1 tsp garlic powder
- 1 tsp sugar
- 1 tsp oregano
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 tsp corn flour

For the guacamole

- 2 avocados, ripe
- 1/2 red onion, finely chopped
- Juice of half a lemon
- 2 tsp olive oil
- 1 tomato, diced
- 1 pinch of black pepper
- 1 pinch of salt
- 1 handful chopped coriander
- 1/2 tsp Tabasco, to taste

Method

Saute the onions and peppers in olive oil. Cook minced vegetables until soft. Add the spice mix, sugar, salt and a little corn flour, then add water and cook for five to six minutes, allowing the mixture to coat the mince. For the guacamole, mix avocado flesh with onion, coriander, lime juice, olive oil, tomato and a few drops of Tabasco. Season and mix well. Warm the taco shells. Place lettuce in them first then the filling. Arrange on plate with some grated cheese and finely chopped coriander on top. Gratinate just enough to melt the cheese. Serve with guacamole.

- AVINASH MOHAN

PHOTO | COURTESY

Unsettling experience at popular eatery

An otherwise great experience is marred by some bad food and wishy-washy service.

By Bon Vivant

Open House has received glowing reviews, so I decided to take my family there for dinner recently.

The restaurant is decorated tastefully to look like an Indian mansion. It is spacious but extremely popular so make a reservation. The maître d' personally seats each guest. His colleague, presumably the manager, walked around enthusiastically greeting regular patrons.

Open House
Restaurant,
Westlands

Upset stomach

The waiters are hard-working; they cleared and set the tables in record time. When our waiter brought us the menu, I asked him for his recommendations, especially for a young child. He seemed unable to answer my questions so I just asked for fries for the little one

and some juices while we figured out the menu. We ordered naan, fish curry, chicken and some rice. I inquired about the ingredients in one of the dishes due to allergies, but the waiter said he would have to find out. (He never did.) Meanwhile the chips arrived. They looked a little suspect but we gave the establishment the benefit of the doubt. He dug in and after a few minutes began to complain of a tummy ache and nausea. My partner took him outside while I waited for our food. When the food arrived, I explained the situation to the waiter and told him to cancel the chips order. I asked for the bill and for our food to be packed.

They brought the bill, which included the charge for the cancelled chips. The waiter explained, "I spoke to the boss and he said you should be given some fresh chips instead, so we packed those for you." I was baffled: Why did they decide to replace the chips without any communication? Secondly, if the manager knew that a customer was experiencing gastric discomfort from their food, why did he not bother to apologise? Later that night after the little one had finally slept, we ate our take-away. The naan and fish curry were outstanding. I can see why it is called the best Indian cuisine in town. If only the service had been as good!



Send your feedback to satmag@ke.nationmedia.com

MEET THE CHEF



Avinash Mohan, group executive chef, Fairmont Hotels and Resorts Kenya

How did you become a chef?

I come from a family of serious foodies so I dropped my Bachelor of Science course to pursue a culinary career. I have worked at the Oberio Group and the Leela Palace in India, and the Four Seasons Hotel in Ireland.

What do you enjoy most about your work?

I get to split my time between creative and organisational tasks. I love having that duality, because when I get stuck on the creative, I can switch gears. Secondly, my team is great to work with.

Which dignitary would you like to cook a meal for?

Assuming I can invite someone who isn't living, I would like to cook for Mahatma Gandhi.

When you are at home what do you love to eat?

I love what my wife Smitha prepares for me. She is a fantastic cook. My favourite dish is the South Indian Kottayam Meen curry (spicy fish) with steamed rice.

What tips would you give our readers? Balance your dishes with all the key four flavours that is – salt, sweet, sour and hot.

What are your future goals? These involve writing a book on my food trails around the world. My next destination would be the Middle east, The Americas and then South East Asia.

— TRICIA WANJALA

Secret
Behind

NEW PACK with SAME GREAT TASTE

Tropical Heat spices and herbs - A household name in Kenya for over 39 years, it's a secret passed on from generation to generation.



TRAVEL & LEISURE

Rupi Mangat visits a ranch where rescued chimps and rhino are flourishing.



George, one of the chimps at the sanctuary. Photo by Ed Barthop

Something for future generations

Year after year I'm filled with more admiration for Poko. He's the chimp at Sweetwaters Chimpanzee Sanctuary on Ol Pejeta Ranch in Nanyuki. He's getting on in age – thinning hair and so on – but he's still full of spunk.

Watching him on a cool mid-year morning on the equator with Kenya's tallest mountain decked in cloud, he's attempting to do cartwheels but manages only a half show.

It's hard to fathom that this chimp spent the first nine years of his life in a cage suspended above a workshop to attract customers. The steel-rod prison had space only for him to stand upright or sit hunched on two feet – hence his unusual gait – walking.

Then come Angela and Ajabu – the two

naughty little girls. Angela's imitating Poko flinging stones through the fence. She thinks it's so much fun amidst squeals of excitement. We're at the chimp sanctuary, Kenya's first and only one, for a very special occasion. It's the launch of PEGAS – Project to End Great Apes Slavery to fight the brutal trade where entire families of chimpanzees are massacred to get to the infant.

Abandoned chimps

It's a trade that's steadily increasing mainly due to demand from China for their entertainment spots in shopping malls and circuses or through drive-in-safari parks! Infants are preferred because they are easy to train, ship and handle. A mature chimp on the other hand is 10 times stronger than a human and not an easy pet to

handle.

Karl Ammann, a wildlife investigator, has seen the worst side of this trade. He's showing us a cage – just the size to fit a five-foot person with no room to move. In 2005, the crate was found at the Jomo Kenyatta Airport when staff saw tiny fingers poking through holes and child-like whimpering coming from it. When opened, five chimp babies were squeezed in the box. Without food and water for several days, they were in bad shape and one had died. Watching the survivors play in their pen, this is one happy story of chimps that were rescued.

Nearly extinct

Next is to see how the four Northern white rhinos are faring. The Northern white rhino is on its last leg. With only seven left in the world, it's extinct in the wild and listed as Critically Endangered. Its range once spread over northwestern Uganda, southern Chad, southern South Sudan, the eastern part of Central African Republic and northeastern Democratic Republic of the Congo before poaching brought their numbers from 500 to 15 in the 1970s and 1980s with only seven accounted for in 2007.

In 2009, four of the six Northern whites from Dvur Kralove Zoo in the Czech Republic were translocated to Ol Pejeta in the hope that they would breed in their ancestral home, Africa. So far that has not happened.

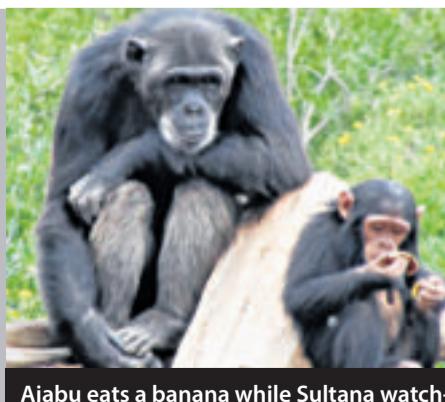
However, the Southern white rhino was considered extinct in the late 19th century. Then in 1895 a small population of less than 100 individuals was discovered in South Africa. Today the Southern white rhinos number 20,000 and the only ones that are listed as non-endangered rhinos. A few were translocated to Kenya in the 1990s and are doing well.

Maybe there's some hope then for the Northern white rhino, that a few dozen might pop up from some hidden enclave in Cameroon or Uganda and the world can once again celebrate a success story and leave something for future generations to see instead of the squalour of over-populated cities.

OL PEJETA CONSERVANCY

Log on to www.olpejetaconservancy.org to read more about the 90,000-acre wildlife haven. It's East Africa's largest black rhino sanctuary and the only place in Kenya to see chimpanzees and the Northern white rhino. There's plenty of cat-life too with lions, leopards and cheetah prowling

about. The equator passes through the conservancy and there are some beautiful places to stay at like Sweetwaters Serena Camp or Ol Pejeta House and for a private house try Pelican House. The conservancy is 190 kilometres from Nairobi. Prior bookings are a must.



Ajabu eats a banana while Sultana watches. Photo by Nicole Sharpe

MUST DO LIST

EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT HIGHLIGHTS

August 2

Jazz Under the Stars

This is a special treat for both new and loyal patrons featuring entertainment by two international headlining Jazz artists! The towering 6ft 7" lead bass player, Julian Vaughn, will mark his debut visit to Kenya with his unique and soulful style. Phil Denny is back by public demand to give another spectacular performance especially for those that missed him last year. And of course our very own Eddie Grey and the Ensemble will give a grand performance with June Gachui.

Venue: Nairobi Club, Upperhill

Time: 6pm -11pm

Tickets: Sh3, 000; VIP Sh5, 000 (VIP ticket includes a welcome Chivas drink while stocks last) Tickets available on ticketsasa.com and at the event.

Contact: 0706 512895

August 2

Poetry at the Park

This is a monthly themed event; a fusion of spoken word, live acoustic/a cappella or live band music and other forms of art like painting, graffiti and designing. This edition's theme is "Ideal Man/Woman."

Venue: August 7th Memorial Park

Time: 2pm -5.30pm

Tickets: Sh200

Contact: 071192268

August 2-3

Hakuna Matata Festival

Epic Nation, Capital FM and Event Gear are back at it again bringing you the epic Hakuna Matata Festival. The third edition will be happening in Kiambu County at The Migaa Golf Estate. On Stage will be a mix of live acts and DJs featuring Just A Band, Le Band, Foozak, Creme de la Creme, Hypnotiq, Protege, Crossfade, Stretch (The Capital One), and Kace.

Venue: Migaa Golf Estate

Time: 2pm

Ticket: early bird: Sh1, 000; advance: Sh1, 500; Gate: Sh2, 000; VIP: Sh3, 500

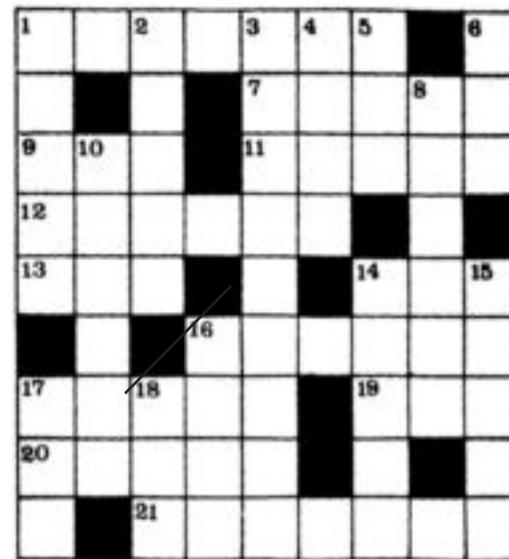
Contact: Visit Facebook event page for more details

SIMPLE CROSSWORD**ACROSS**

- A plant that grows upwards by twining, clinging etc. using tendrils etc.
- In an incorrect or defective manner
- An epoch
- Goes on a bicycle or horseback
- A person superior to others in years, dignity, rank, office etc.
- To equal as in score
- A stream of liquid issuing under pressure from an opening
- Flight of Mohammed from Mecca to Medina in 622
- That which deserves commendation
- Not used
- To worship
- The flat roof of a building

DOWN

- Upper half of the human body cavity enclosed by the ribs
- Senseless
- Instrument for measuring atmospheric pressure



4. A chieftain in an Arab country
 5. To dispose of
 6. A very silly person
 8. Harsh
 10. Controlled as in riding a horse
 14. Ugandan commercial city located on the northern shores
 of L. Victoria
 15. A leather strap cut into thongs at one end for corporal punishment
 16. To charter
 17. To supply with personnel
 18. To decompose
 19. Lid

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION**ACROSS**

- Unfrock
- Also
- Idle
- Abandon
- Eggs
- Lee
- Met
- Hero
- Diluted
- Arid
- Aide
- Madeira

DOWN

- Gavel
- Usage
- Nobs
- Rink
- Odd
- Clover
- Ken
- Gezira
- Media
- Token
- Dude
- Hear
- Dam
- Lid

SUDOKU**Sudoku with Steers**

You solve the puzzle by filling in the empty cells with a single number (from all the possible candidates). There is only one correct number per cell. Complete the Sudoku puzzle so that each and every row, column, and region contains the numbers one through nine only once. **The SMS contest has taken a break until further notice.**

STEERS REAL BURGERS

2	6	5	1	3
5		1	9	6
1	8		1	6
		9	7	4
			2	8
9	7	8	4	
1	8	2	6	7

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

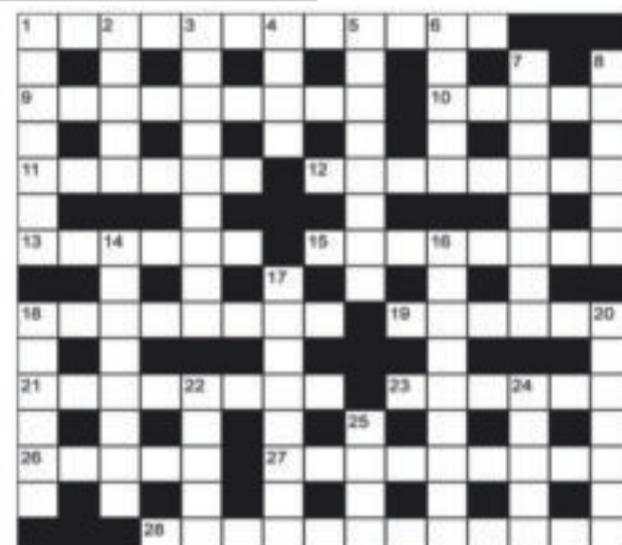
4	7	6	8	5	1	3	9	2
5	3	2	6	4	9	8	1	7
9	1	8	7	2	3	6	4	5
8	5	7	9	3	4	1	2	6
2	6	1	5	7	8	4	3	9
3	9	4	2	1	6	5	7	8
1	8	9	3	6	2	7	5	4
6	4	5	1	9	7	2	8	3
7	2	3	4	8	5	9	6	1

COMPLEX CROSSWORD**ACROSS**

- Stays if worried about performer meeting requirements (12)
- Continuing drama, like this artist pursuing a religious leader (4,5)
- Music written for twenty? (5)
- Traces of European Commission houses without us (6)
- Some compromise, as on a limit at a particular time of the year (8)
- A particularly intimidating woman doctor gets pain reduced (6)
- Runs into president after broadcast to improve image (8)
- Story told to support cause of delay on the road (8)
- Songbird flying over lake – quail? (6)
- Area for discussion of poor match played with no pressure (4,4)
- Put down all outsiders in dispute – more aggression (6)
- Finish after getting half of them correct (5)
- Run test in new substances that provide food (9)
- Pathetic story – it's a comparatively inferior thing (4,8)

DOWN

- Hang revolutionary American outlay! (7)
- Temperature and skin infection? Rubbish! (5)
- One goes off and hides large sum of money needed to



- support London? (5,4)
 4 Jump on ice and cut line (4)
 5 Recognised artist holding up exchanges in commerce (6,2)
 6 Sprays of flowers (5)
 7 Quickly drink and go – there's a recession! (8)
 8 Breaking the law may provide an abundance of material possessions (6)
 14 Lively article made it absurd (8)
 16 Dance with the Queen at home – a pirouetting star! (9)
 17 Glass preferably found outside church (8)
 18 Watch credit here, lacking protection (6)
 20 Practical lad follows script (5-2)
 22 Show runs rings around disheartened debutante (5)
 24 Tedium in French? Yes, in French, we hear (5)
 25 Visual problem caused by dropping line from fashion (4)

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

- Target
 - Scenario
 - Pastiche
 - Issue
 - Outrage
 - Ordered
 - Crewe
 - Old flame
 - Rightful
 - Title
 - October
 - Vertigo
 - Again
 - Unrelated
 - Sinister
 - Wyvern
- DOWN**
- Top Notch
 - Rosette
 - Elizabeth
 - Cash on delivery
 - Naiad
 - Rostrum
 - Overdo
 - Wheel of fortune
 - Literally
 - Beholden
 - In Train
 - Thistle
 - Morass
 - Bonus

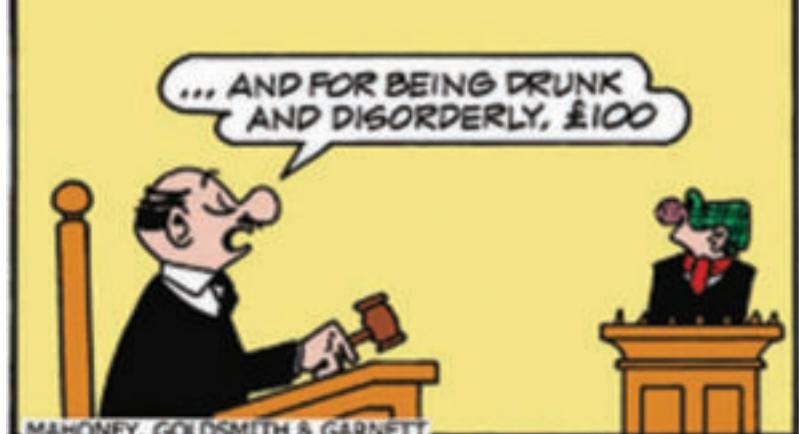
CODEWORD

Each number in our Codeword grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. For example, today 25 represents G so fill in G every time the figure 25 appears. You one two letter in the control grid to start you off. Enter it in the appropriate squares in the main grid, then use your knowledge of words to work out which letters should go in the missing squares. As you get the letters, fill in other squares with the same number in the main grid and control grid. Check off the list of alphabetical letters as you identify them.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
11	12				3	11	5	13	12	17	2	15	
3	12	14	15		5	7	16	2	5	13	12	17	3
18	3		19	8		9	20	2			4	17	
21	2	18	21	13	18	22	3	12	17	5	5	18	
8	3		10	3			19			17	6	19	
20	2	19	18	3	23	8	12	1	13	20	3	7	20
12	8		19	5	18	3	1	7	3	12	17	9	22
13	1	8	18	5	17	3	1	24	13	12	7	11	24
12	8		10		19			12	13	12	13	12	25
25	8	12	25	1		15	3	28	3	5	17	13	26

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
R	Q	B	P	J	C	A	E	X	U	L	H														

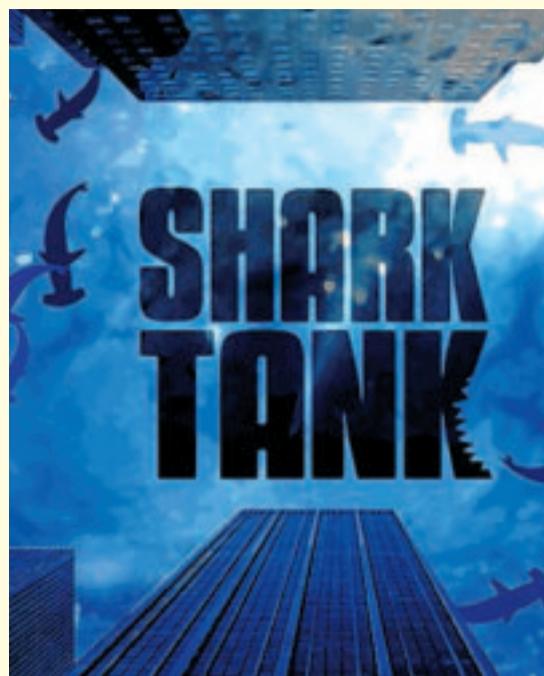
ANDY CAPP



5:00am One Cubed
6:00am AM Live
9.00am Generation 3
10:00am The Penguins Of Madagascar
10:30am Cool Catz
11:00am Teen Republik
1:00pm NTV at 1
1:30pm Prankstars - RPT
2:00pm Legacy
4:00pm Scandal - Omnibus

5:00pm Africa Connect Music Show
6:00pm Malimwengu
7:00pm NTV Jioni
7:30pm Shark Tank
8:30pm OffSide
9:00pm NTV Weekend Edition
10:00pm Movie: Brothers In Arms
11:30pm Stop Suffering
12:00am CNN

TREAT OF THE DAY



SHARK TANK 7:30PM

Shark Tank is an American reality competition series that premiered in 2009, on ABC. It is the American version of the global Dragons' Den franchise and features business pitches from aspiring entrepreneurs to a panel of potential investors.

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT

OFFSIDE 8:30PM

MOVIE: BROTHERS IN ARMS 10:00PM



5:00am AL-Jazeera
6:00am Worker's Prayer
6:20am Tumsifu
9:00am Kamusi ya Chamgamka
11:00am Mwanaspoti
12:00pm Vipasho
12:05pm Bunge La Wazalendo
12:30pm Face to Face
1:00pm Toleo La Mchana
1:30pm Rhumba Mzooqa
3:00pm Vipasho
3:05pm Rhumba Mzooqa
3:30pm Mombasati
4:00pm Vipasho
4:05pm Mombasati
4:30pm Sakata Rumba
5:30pm Sifa
6:00pm Mkulima Ni Ujuzi
7:10pm Tujuane
8:00pm Mwisho Juma na Walibora
8:30pm I-Seme
9:00pm WWE :Bottomline
10:00pm Irie-Reggae
11:00pm Ghana Mafia
01:00am AL-Jazeera

TELEVISION

CITIZEN TV

5:00 Pambazuka
8:00 Knowzone
9:00 Wedding Show -
Omnibus 11:00 Great Debate
Contest 11:30 Xtreem Request Live
1:00 Live At 1
1:30 Shamba Shape Up
2:00 Dear Mother
2:45 Tabasamu
3:15 I Stand Accused
4:30 Tall Dreams 5:00 Habibu
5:30 Kaa Rada
6:00 Jastorina
6:30 Saidia
7:00 Nipashe Wikiendi
7:45 Naswa
8:15 Wild at Heart
9:00 Citizen Weekend
10:00 Corona de Lagrimas
11:00 Afrosinema
01:30 Afrodizzia

KTN TV

6:00 Christ Embassy
6:30 Joyce Meyer 7:00 Cartoons
8:00 Club Kiboko 9:00 Marvels
10:00 Yolo 11:00 Straight Up Live
1:00 Lunch Time News 1:30 Africa
Speaks 2:00 Movie 4:00 Mbiu Ya
KTN 4:10 Tendereza Live 6:00 Ideal
Space 6:30 KTN Leo 7:30 Guinness
World Record 8:00 Are You My Type
9:00 KTN Weekend Prime
10:05 Rasharasha
12:00 Baseline/CNN

K24 TV

5.00 Praiz 6.30 Turning Point 7.00
K24 Alfajiri 9.00 Just Kids 10.30
Mishoni 11.00 Riddim Up live 1.00
K24 Newscut 1.30 Arena 254 Live
3.30 BeatBox 4.00 Without You
6.00 Valgame Dios 7.00 K24

Wikendi

7.35 Kilimo Biashara 8.00 Isabella
9.00 K24 Weekend Report
9.50 Rave With Joe Mfalme
1.30 Beatbox
2.00 Aljazeera

EBRU AFRICA TV

5:15 Plug N play Rescue 6:00 Ad
Persuasion 6:30 Chopper Rescue
7:00 Tarchins and Friends
10:00 Junk D 11:00 Blank Canvas
11:30 Plug N play 12:00 World of
Mysteries 1:00 Ayna 2:00 Green
Force 2:30 Fifth Dimension
4:00 Catalyst Magazine 4:30
Documentary 5:00 Helicops
6:00 Family Footsteps 7:00 Weekly
Report 7:30 World of Football 8:00
Plug N play 8:30 Ebru News 9:15
Movie 10:30 Open Forum

KBC TV

05.00 BBC World News
7.00 Fire Ministries 7.30 Miracle in
the Village 8.00 Neno Litakuweka
huru 8.30 Jesus is Coming 8.45
Nuguva za Miugiza
9.00 Jesus Winner 9.30 Big Minds
10.30 J,ambo Toto
11.00 Angaza Live
1.00 KBC Lunchtime News
1.30 CCTV News
2.30 KBC Sports
4.30 Attitude
6.00 Taj Show
7.00 KBC Taarifa
7.30 Read Between the Lines
8.00 The Mansion
9.00 KBC News
10.00 Weekend Movie
12.00 Adrusion
12.30 BBC World News

CINEMA » SMS MOVIES TO 20667 TO RECEIVE MOBILE MOVIE ALERTS AT 10/- PER ALERT

NAIROBI

FOX CINEPLEX-SARIT CENTRE
SCREEN I
"STEP UP ALL" (3D)
(P/G)
11AM, 1.45PM
"BAD NEIGHBOURS" (ADULTS ONLY)
4PM
"KICK" (G/E)
6PM, 9PM

SCREEN II
"GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY"
(3D) (TBA)
11AM, 1.45PM, 4.15PM, 6.40PM,
9.10PM

SCREEN III
"GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY"
(2D)
(16)
11.30AM, 2.10PM

(2D) (16)
2.20PM, 7PM, 9.30PM

1PM, 5.10PM
"THINK LIKE A MAN 2" (18)

7.30PM
"TRANSFORMERS4" AGE OF
DISTINCTION" 2D (16)
10AM, 9.40PM

PLANET MEDIA, PRESTIGE PLAZA, NGONG ROAD

"GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY"

(3D)

(TBA)

4PM, 6.30PM, 9PM

"DAWN OF THE PLANET APES"

(3D)

(16)

1.15PM

"HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON

2" (3D)

(G/E)

11AM

"THINK LIKE A MAN TOO"

(18)

9PM

"KICK"

(TBA)

6.05PM, 9PM

"STEP UP ALL"

(TBA)

10.45AM, 1PM, 3.10PM

PLANET MEDIA CINEMAS, NAKUMATT MEGA CITY MALL, KISUMU

SCREEN I

"X-MEN- DAYS OF FUTURE PAST"

(16)

1.20PM, 3.50PM, 6.20PM, 8.40PM

SCREEN II

"GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY"

(TBA)

1.30PM, 6.10PM

"KICK"

(TBA)

8.40PM

"STEP UP ALL"

(P/G)

3.45PM

"22 JUMP STREET"

11.20AM

MOMBASA

"DAWN OF THE PLANET OF THE APES"

(3D)

2PM

"GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY"

(3D)

2.45PM

"STEP UP ALL"

(3D)

4.45PM

"KICK"

5.45PM, 9PM

"BAD NEIGHBOURS"

7.15PM

"GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY"

(2D)

9.15PM

YOUR STARS

AQUARIUS (JAN 21-FEB 19)

You have tons of new energy to make a positive impression on everyone you meet. It's a great time to schedule job interviews or make presentations to gain more exposure for your goods and services. The Universe brings attention to romance, kids, and family.

PISCES (FEB 20-MAR 20)

The Universe is highlighting your career sector and helping provide needed energy for growth. You may revisit an old idea or project you'd abandoned and find that now is the perfect time to make it happen. You may find that your dreams or intuitive flashes are particularly helpful for coming up with something no one has ever seen before.

ARIES (MAR 21-APR 20)

You're looking at a time of increased social activity, which can help any recently launched business endeavor. With a focus on groups, politics, and self-employment, you're poised to make a big change in your life, one that may end up affecting the way you live.

TAURUS (APR 21-MAY 20)

You're trying to find a solution to an ongoing money quandary. You're becoming more of an authority figure in what you do. And you're ready to cash in on all your hard-earned cachet. The cosmos is affecting your house of money and values., showing that cash flow should increase very soon with a little effort and follow-through.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUN 21)

It's an interesting time. You can't be ignored, so try to use the time to your advantage. Put yourself out there. Volunteer to give the presentation. Try a new style. Your house of romantic fun, kids, and family members comes into play. How can you use family connections to advance your money cause?

CANCER (JUN 22-JUL 22)

If you've been meaning to get your accounts in order, this is a great time to do it. Your house of debt and other people's money is most affected. If you're trying to raise money for a new business idea, it's a great time to do so. The Universe is focusing on messages, such as loan applications.

LEO (JUL 23-AUG 22)

This period is about aspects affecting your house of marriage and serious relationships. Make sure your calendar and contacts are up to date. In order to make more money, you'll need to access these people regularly. Make lunch, dinner, and drink dates for networking purposes.Your bottom line, not to mention your ego, will thank you later.

VIRGO (AUG 23-SEPT 23)

You've been meaning to clean house in some way in your work and money life, and this period provides just the right combination of energies to get it done. It's a great time to update your resume and look for a new job, if you want to, or gain the attention of superiors for plum assignments.

LIBRA (SEPT 24-OCT 23)

You have a supportive Universe now, indicating a time of renewed attention to romance, children, and family. If you work in one of these areas, money comes almost effortlessly. If you have an idea for a product or service to reach these demographics, it's a great time to launch that into the world.

SCORPIO (OCT 24-NOV 22)

It's a challenging time to be you. The sky's the limit when it comes to your home and inner feelings. If you've been craving a break from the office, working from home may provide just the peace and quiet you need to become even more productive.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV 23- DEC 21)

You're trying to say more of what you mean when it comes to work and money now. It's the perfect time to speak up about your priorities and be heard on all things cash oriented. Don't let someone else at work or in a close relationship be overly domineering about his or her money ideas.Togther you can move mountains - alone, not so much.

CAPRICORN (DEC 22-JAN 20)

You're facing an exciting time now. With so many extra opportunities to make money and augment your salary, it may be tempting to spend more as well. Your employment sector holds the key. Why not take advantage of a savings program offered through work?

To receive NATIONmobile horoscopes on your mobile, SMS the Star you want, eg LEO to 20667 at 10/- above normal rates.



LOVE IS ONLY A PHONE CALL AWAY

WOMEN SEEKING MEN

Blessings is in her early forties, holds a degree, a stable job and lives positively with HIV. She is god-fearing, down-to-earth and has no kids. She's looking for a single/widowed soul mate, aged 48-50 years. SMS first expressing your genuineness. No jokers! 0737 591 605

Dorcas Wanja, born in central Kenya in 1981, is a god-fearing lady of integrity, with a stable job, living positively with HIV. She is light and medium size, with no kids. She wants a life partner aged 33 to 45 years, living equally positively with HIV, unattached, stable, with a pleasant personality, kind and gentle, and with good moral values. Email dorcaswanja81@gmail.com

Lucy Muthoni, 47, is a never-married rural woman in business in Nairobi. She is a Christian, light in complexion, of average build, educated up to Form 4, and has a 13-year-old daughter. She is looking for a serious man, her age and above, working or in business, for a serious relationship leading to marriage. Talk to Aunty Tabby. 0737 991 322

Tasha Nkirote, 30, is a master's degree holder, working in the busy corporate world in Nairobi. She is never-married, warmhearted, hardworking and has strong family values. She wants a never-married god fearing soul mate, aged 32 - 38 years, employed professionally or in business. He should be a graduate with a taste for the good things in life. Email: tashankirote@yahoo.com

Joy is well-educated born-again woman aged 48 from central Kenya based in Nairobi. She has stable businesses and a son in high school. She seeks a genuine man who's saved (mark that), aged 45-60 years and in a stable career. You have to meet me with Pastor Patrick 0725 290 624 for safety/accountability. Go to the Covenant Marriage Pastor Facebook page.

Cathrine, 30, is Kikuyu, a Presbyterian devotee, B.com holder and clearing my master's degree. I am an accountant in Nairobi, and without pastoral help, it's been challenging to meet a serious man aged 32-40 years, preferably a graduate. Convince Pastor Patrick 0725 290 624 (SMS first) to introduce you. Check out the Covenant Marriage Pastor Facebook page.

MEN SEEKING WOMEN

Son of Kenyan immigrant Evra Carroll seeks a legal relationship. Your imagination, initiative, and indignation will determine whether we build a family where progress is the servant of our needs. We have the opportunity to move not only toward the stable family, but also upward to the great family. For more of my profile call 0705 633 820 or 0735 495 809

Dr Michael Millan, a 40-year-old saved single man works and lives in Lodwar. He is looking for a mature and serious partner for long-term relationship that leads to marriage. Call/SMS 0708 283 663 or email: millanmichael675@gmail.com

Simeon, 58, from central Kenya is a lonely widower with independent adults. He retired from a good managerial job and seeks a lady aged 35-55 years without/with children and with a stable lifestyle. Meet me with Pastor Patrick 0725 290 624 for face-to-face introduction and accountability. Check his Covenant Marriage Pastor Facebook page. Don't respond if that arrangement doesn't suit you.

EW is a seriously saved gentleman aged 49, who is genuine and stable. He seeks a saved and genuine lady aged 28-40 years, without a child, preferably educated in college/university. A saved lady from Mt Kenya/eastern region of Kenya or of Asian upbringing will match, but 'tribe' is an unfortunate mental illusion. SMS strictly 0722 140 107.

AGENCIES

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RELATIONSHIP TIPS WITH JOAN THATIAH

You're definitely cheating if ...

There's no denying it, the other woman and the other man look like they're here to stay. When you hear of the word 'cheating' the first thing that will pop into most people's minds is having sex with another person other than your partner. Cheating in a relationship, however, is complicated and doesn't always constitute sex. Could you be unknowingly cheating on your significant other? Here are things you could be doing that also amount to cheating:

■ **Anticipating a next step** – It maybe that you sent a harmless text or that you shared a harmless lunch with another person but as long as you have expectations from it, you are eager to see how this third party will react and you have hope that this could grow into something more, you are cheating. The problem isn't that you are interacting with another but the intent behind that interaction. Be honest with yourself. What is the motive behind sending that text message?

■ **Would you be upset if tables were flipped?** – Sometimes even the most self-aware person will delude themselves into believing that they are not cheating to avoid feeling guilty. If you have any doubts regarding your conduct, ask yourself how you would feel if you caught your partner doing the same. Would you be hurt if you found out that he was flirting heavily with a co-worker and sometimes secretly went out for drinks with her? If yes, then it is cheating.

■ **Partner replacement fantasies** – You may be one of those who get intimate with their partner while feeding their minds with the fantasies of another. While sex experts term this as healthy sexual behaviour which may seem harmless seeing as the monogamy bounds aren't broken, it may count as cheating. True, fantasising is something that can happen as a reflex such as anger and it doesn't always constitute cheating. When it happens constantly during the act and when you become incapable of intimacy without it, it becomes emotional cheating. The fate of your relationship depends heavily on fantasies that you have of other people.

■ **Hiding male friends** – Assuming that you are in a heterosexual relationship, it may make sense to hide your friendships with your male friends so as not to upset your man. You can even argue that it is innocent seeing as there is nothing overtly sexual about it. It is still cheating because you are sneaking around and hiding things from him. If you find yourself sneaking around, ask yourself why you feel the need to hide this fact from your partner. It may be a sign of a bigger problem in your relationship.

■ **Chat rooms** – You are lonely, bored or maybe just curious and you go online to meet and flirt with other men. From where you stand, these virtual relations are insignificant. They do not count as cheating because you have no intentions of ever meeting these men offline, right? Wrong. You are cheating. It may seem harmless seeing as there is no physical interaction but the fact that you are lying about it makes it wrong. The fact that you intentionally seek sexual excitement outside your relationship makes it cheating.

■ **When you are not caught** – You may imagine that acts of cheating which the other party knows nothing about do not constitute cheating. He may not know about it and may not get hurt, but the fact that he would be upset and feel betrayed if he found out makes it cheating. This 'it is not cheating if it's known' mentality is the same one that prompts some people to cheat when they are in a different country from their partner telling themselves that because of the great distance and the minimal likelihood of getting caught, it doesn't count.

Depending on the nature of the relationship, each individual is likely to have their own notions in regard to which actions amount to cheating and which ones do not. The best test is to engage your conscience. Do you feel guilty after engaging in a certain activity? If yes, you are probably cheating. If it feels like cheating to you, it is.